

Star Presidian

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What are all of these women doing?

Members of the Presidio Spouse Club gathered over the holidays to package cookies and other goodies for veterans confined to the Fort Miley Veterans Affairs hospital. See page 4 for more photos of the fun. (Photo courtesy of Presidio Spouse Club)

Sixth U.S. Army closure announced

By Sharon E. Everett-Roles
Star Presidian staff

After more than 50 years of faithful service to the Nation encompassing World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam conflict, Operation Desert Shield/Storm and every other conflict in between, the Sixth United States Army will be inactivated not later than September 30, 1995. On Dec. 8, 1994, the Department of the Army announced its force structure plans for Fiscal Year 95-96 which will mean an end to Sixth Army's proud service.

As part of this plan, First and Sixth Army Headquarters will inactivate by the end of the fiscal year, with Second U.S. Army assuming First Army's missions and area of responsibility (AOR) and Fifth Army assuming Sixth Army's missions in its geographical area of 12 western states.

Although the news is sad for all Presidians, we should take heart that this is the final phase of the post-Cold War draw-down. The Army has shrunk 35 percent in the past four years, and a corresponding "slice" must be taken from the headquarters overhead, said Lt. Col. Ed Erickson, Chief of the Sixth U.S. Army transition planning team.

In closing out the Sixth Army Headquarters, our job is to transfer command and control of our mission and geographical area to Headquarters, Fifth Army in the June

timeframe, conduct close-out and transition activities, and inactivate the command by Sept. 30.

Sixth Army Commander Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., has said his number one priority is to take care of people. He also includes maintaining the readiness of the reserve component units in the geographical area and continuing to ensure that the Army is capable of providing disaster operations support to civilian authorities as other top priorities in implementing the plan. He has pledged that his staff will take care of civilians, soldiers, and families; conduct professional transfer of Sixth Army's AOR and responsibilities; be capable of responding to civilian authorities in emergencies until transfer of the mission; establish cooperative relationships with Fifth Army, and; ensure that there is no degradation of Reserve Component readiness and training.

Gen. Mallory is also very concerned and dedicated to maintaining the quality of life for families living on the Presidio throughout the transition process.

Although there are no concrete answers to many questions about the headquarters transition at this time, nearly everyone on the Sixth Army transition team has gone through this before and is sensitive to people's concerns, according

to Erickson. He said that the team will make assumptions based on past experience and move ahead. The Sixth Army transition plan is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 28 and it is being closely coordinated with Fifth Army, he stated.

Whether there will be any military presence at all remaining at the Presidio after Sixth Army's inactivation, the fate of the PX and commissary, disposition of family quarters and so on, are presently unknown.

As we get closer to the actual transition, more information will be disseminated to keep people informed. Putting out additional information in the form of "town hall" meetings, civilian personnel briefings and *Star Presidian* articles will begin shortly as planners work through the issues.

Still there is cause to celebrate as Sixth Army reaches its 52nd birthday on Jan. 25. At that time we will commemorate all the great deeds performed in war and in peace over the past decades--since Sixth Army's activation at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, on that date in 1943 as World War II raged on. Its first mission was to recapture the vast chain of islands seized by Japan during the early months of the war in the Pacific Theater. The mission now for the unit whose slogan is "Born of War" will be to ensure we take care of people and conduct a smooth transition of responsibilities, as it closes this chapter of a military history of long and proud service.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

The dream still lives in King's speech

Editor's Note: The following is the complete text of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s, "I have a dream" speech. The staff of the Star Presidian salutes Dr. King and his civil rights efforts.

"I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration of freedom in the history of our nation.

"Fivescore years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today, signed the Emancipation Proclamation. This momentous decree came as a great beacon light of hope to millions of Negro slaves who had been seared in the flames of withering injustice. It came as a joyous daybreak to end the long night of their captivity.

"But 100 years later, the Negro still is not free; 100 years later, the life of the Negro is still sadly crippled by the manacles of segregation and the chains of discrimination; 100 years later, the Negro lives in a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity; 100 years later, the Negro is still languished in the corners of American society and finds himself in exile in his own land.

"So we've come here today to dramatize a shameful condition. In a sense we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir. This note was the promise that all men, yes, black men as well as white men, would be guaranteed the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"It is obvious today that America has defaulted on this promissory note in so far as her citizens of color are concerned. Instead of honoring this sacred obligation, America has given the Negro people a bad check; a check which has come back marked 'insufficient funds.' We refuse to believe that

there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity of this nation. And so we've come to cash this check, a check that will give us upon demand the riches of freedom and the security of justice.

"We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. This is no time to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. Now is the time to make real the promises of democracy; now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice; now is the time to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood; now is the time to make justice a reality for all God's children. It would be fatal for the nation to overlook the urgency of the moment. This sweltering summer of the Negro's legitimate discontent will not pass until there is an invigorating autumn of freedom and equality.

"1963 is not an end, but a beginning. And those who hope that the Negro needed to blow off steam and will now be content, will have a rude awakening if the nation returns to business as usual. There will be neither rest nor tranquility in America until the Negro is granted his citizenship rights. The whirlwinds of revolt will continue to shake the foundations of our nation until the bright day of justice emerges.

"But there is something that I must say to my people, who stand on the warm threshold which leads into the palace of justice. In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plain of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to generate into physical violence. Again and again we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force; and



the marvelous new militancy, which has engulfed the Negro community, must not lead us to a distrust of all white people. For many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. And as we talk, we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back.

There are those who are asking the devotees of civil rights, 'When will you be satisfied?' We can never be satisfied as long as the Negro is the victim of the unspeakable horrors of police brutality; we can never be satisfied as long as our bodies, heavy with the fatigue of travel, cannot gain lodging in the motels of the highways and the hotels of the cities; we cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro's basic mobility is from smaller ghetto to larger one; we can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their selfhood and robbed of their dignity by signs stating 'For Whites Only'; we cannot be satisfied as long as the Negro in Mississippi cannot vote and the Negro in

See DREAM, page 7

Star Presidian

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Presidio Pulse

Housing update

Based upon the announcement that Sixth U.S. Army will inactivate, the following information is provided:

* The Army will no longer fund moves from outside the "footprint" to inside the footprint.

* The Army will continue to fund moves for Navy families who are residing off the footprint and relocating to Navy housing (e.g., Hamilton Army Airfield, Alameda). However, at this time, those Navy personnel residing in the footprint and wanting to move to Navy housing will not be funded by the Army.

* There is only one cleaning standard for terminating family housing, regardless of where one resides (in or off the footprint).

The Presidio Housing Office will keep residents informed as information is provided, clarified, or changed. Call (415) 561-3649/3631 if you have any housing-related questions.

Academy news

Discover the science behind Scholastic's The Magic School Bus at the California Academy of Sciences. Magic School Bus activities will engage audiences in performing and observing experiments and making models to take home from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Jan. 28 and 29. Ms. Frizzle will appear in person at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. both days. This program is free after regular academy admission.

The Magic School Bus books and animated PBS television series were created to take science concepts and ideas to children and make them concrete, and to inspire the imaginations of children nationwide. Children may take a ride with Ms. Frizzle, teacher extraordinaire, as the magic school bus takes them on cliff-hanging field trips through the human body, to the center of the earth and far into outer space. In the words of Ms. Frizzle, The Magic School Bus programming allows visitors to "get messy, take chances and ask questions."

The California Academy of Sciences includes the Steinhart Aquarium, Morrison Planetarium and the Natural History Museum all under one roof in beautiful Golden Gate Park. For 24-hour recorded Academy information, please call (415) 750-7145.

Environmental News

The Army has found low concentrations of dioxins and furans at two locations in the

Presidio during a recent investigation of old fuel pipelines, but test results show that the levels are so low neither the public nor the workers cleaning the pipeline are at risk.

The dioxin discovered in the soil surrounding leaking pipelines is one of the less toxic forms, sometimes associated with the chemical pentachlorophenol. There was no detection of 2,3,7,8 TCDD, the most dangerous and widely studied dioxin.

A 20,000-foot pipeline formerly used to distribute heating fuel throughout the post is being investigated and the surrounding soil cleaned as part of the Army's efforts to clean up contaminated sites at the former military installation. During the investigation, 14 areas along the pipeline showed evidence of leaking. Soil samples at three sites were selected for the initial screening of dioxin when it was discovered that recycled fuel may have been used in the pipelines in past years. Pentachlorophenol, a chemical associated with dioxin, can sometimes be found in recycled fuel. When tested, two of the three sites sampled showed low levels of dioxin. The numbers are well below the level in which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would suggest cleanup, and are similar to levels found in any urban setting. The Army will continue testing for dioxin at the other leak locations and will perform tests to determine the origin of dioxins found.

Dioxins are a group of chemical compounds inadvertently produced through a number of activities including combustion, incineration, some types of chemical manufacturing, chlorinated bleaching of pulp and paper and other industrial processes. There are more than two hundred known types of dioxins.

For more information, please contact Rena Davies, BRAC Environmental Public Affairs Office, at (415) 561-3900.

VA loan seminar

Find out how a VA home loan can put you into the home of your dreams. The seminar takes place from 11 to 11:45 a.m., Jan. 27, in the Presidio Community Club's DeAnza Room. Topics to be reviewed include: how to purchase a home with no down payment, what the maximum loan amount of a VA home loan is, what types of loan programs are available with a VA home loan, what the service eligibility requirements to qualify for a VA home loan are, what the income and credit qualifications to obtain a VA home loan are, how to apply for and what the application process is for a VA home

loan, followed by a question and answer period.

Job openings

The National Park Service has openings for three positions. All announcements close Jan. 19. Applications for **Supervisory Architect, GS-0808-13 (Announcement No. GOGA-94-98); Landscape Architect, GS-0807-11 (Announcement No. GOGA-94-97), and; Staff Accountant, GS-0510-12 (Announcement No. GOGA-94-96)** should be sent to National Park Service, Personnel Division, Building 201, Fort Mason, San Francisco, CA 94123. Telephone (415) 556-2035 for information.

CHAMPUS News

Struggling to pay for your health care? If you use CHAMPUS benefits regularly, this briefing is for you! Stop by Letterman U.S. Army Health Clinic's Torney Hall at 1 p.m. Thursday for a 45-minute briefing followed by a question and answer period. Representatives from Letterman will tell you more about the health care program options available to CHAMPUS eligibles, especially TRICARE Prime -- a money-saving alternative to TRICARE Standard and Extra. All active duty personnel, active duty dependents, retirees and their dependents (under age 65) are urged to attend! No RSVP is required.

Commissary closure

The Presidio Commissary will be closed Monday and Tuesday in observance of Martin Luther King's birthday. The commissary will reopen on Wednesday with regular business hours.

Remembrance service

There will be a Service of Remembrance for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., at 11 a.m. today in the Post chapel. The speaker is retired U.S. Army Chaplain Leroy Johnson. Everyone is invited to attend, and duty uniform is acceptable.

Sixth Army Birthday

All Department of Army civilians and Presidio community members are invited to attend the 52nd birthday celebration of Sixth U.S. Army. A retreat ceremony will begin at 4:50 p.m., Jan. 25, at the Presidio Flag Pole. Refreshments will follow at the Presidio Community Club.

Christmas cookies, holiday fun

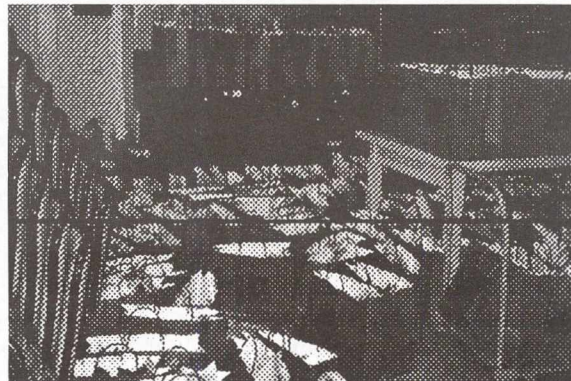


Left: Members of the Presidio Spouses Club gathered at the Community Activity Center to package up homemade cookies and other goodies for hospital-bound veterans at Fort Miley over the holidays.

Right and below: Of course, the cookies had to be sampled before they were tucked into bags (donated by Gump's Department Store) and taken to the hospital.



**Photos
courtesy of
Presidio
Spouses club**



PRESIDIO FOCUS



Rena C. Davies

Capt. Brett Bacon (right) is congratulated by Maj. Stuart Sims after receiving the Meritorious Service Medal. Bacon and Sims are part of the Base Environmental Coordinators' office.



Master. Sgt. Donald L. Banks.

Sgt. Maj. Yvonne Whichard (center), Sixth U.S. Army Inspector General's Office, is congratulated on his promotion by Lt. Col. Donald R. Pawlowski as Whichard's wife, Mary, looks on.

Rapid refund may not be worth the cost

By Col. Gary V. Casida
Special to the Star Presidian

If you're expecting an income tax refund this year, you may be thinking about using "rapid refund" to get your money as soon as possible. Without a doubt, rapid refund is the quickest way of getting your refund, but it will cost you \$75 to \$100 or more. Is it worth the cost? Generally speaking, the answer is "no."

Rapid refund is essentially a bank loan made in anticipation of your refund. Most commercial tax preparers can get you this refund anticipation loan, provided your anticipated refund is \$300 or more. Commercial tax preparers can usually get the loan approved and the money into your hands in two to four days.

But like any other loan, it costs you money to get it. The cost of the loan could exceed \$40, not including the costs of forms preparation and electronic filing. The total cost to the filer varies from a low of about \$65 to a high exceeding \$100, with the average being about \$75. On an annualized basis, the "interest" charge on this loan will exceed 100 percent APR.

Unless there is some pressing need for a quick refund, most people fare better by filing their returns by mail. You will save

money by waiting the additional time to receive your refund. An alternative is to pay a commercial tax preparer to file your return electronically, with direct deposit to your bank account. The refund could arrive in as little as 14 days, and you save the interest charges.

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and a number of volunteers will offer assistance to active duty military, dependents, and military retirees in the preparation of Federal and State income tax returns. Most Federal and some State forms will be available for distribution to persons completing their own returns.

The assistance program will commence with distribution of military W-2 forms at the end of January. Service will be provided in Building 39, Third Floor, Presidio. Disabled persons unable to climb stairs can request an appointment at a more accessible location.

Forms may be picked up at any time during duty hours. Tax assistance is provided by appointment only. Telephone (415) 561-2164 for an appointment.

Here is some more news you can use. The pay of Federal employees, including soldiers, will soon be subject to garnishment by creditors. Until now, Federal pay could only be garnished for child and spousal support. With the Hatch Act Reform Amend-

ments of 1993, however, Congress authorized garnishment of Federal pay by general creditors. DoD is expected to implement the Act in January 1995.

Now, creditors of soldiers and other Federal employees can seek a court judgment in civilian court against a military or Civil Service debtor. If the court grants the judgment, the creditor can then get an order of garnishment and then ask the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to turn over part of the debtor's pay to the creditor. Pay would be withheld each month until the judgment is fully paid. The debtor soldier and his/her commander will be notified before pay is withheld.

It is now more important than ever that soldiers and other Federal employees not incur debts they cannot pay. Think twice before buying that car. Do you really need that set of encyclopedias? Minimize credit card usage. Drive carefully so as not to cause injury to other persons or damage to their property.

If a soldier receives notice that he/she is being sued for money or that his/her pay will be garnished, consult a Legal Assistance Officer or private attorney immediately. The soldier's commander will receive notice of garnishment and should consult the Staff Judge Advocate.

CHAMPUS cost tracking now automated

CHAMPUS-eligible persons and families now have the status of their fiscal year outpatient deductible and catastrophic cost cap tracked automatically through a new, CHAMPUS-wide, centralized system.

The CHAMPUS Central Deductible and Catastrophic Cap File (CDCF) went into operation recently. Beginning with health care services received on or after Oct. 1, 1994, the CDCF keeps track of how much each person or family pays in cost-shares and the annual outpatient deductible for CHAMPUS-covered medical expenses in a fiscal year.

CDCF enables CHAMPUS to use

the CHAMPUS Explanation of Benefits (EOB) form to tell families how much they have paid toward their deductible and toward the cost cap at any time during a fiscal year.

In the past, CHAMPUS claims processing contractors weren't able to automatically share information with each other. Therefore, persons who filed claims with more than one CHAMPUS contractor in a fiscal year often had to provide documentation to the second contractor, showing how much they had paid the first contractor toward their annual outpatient deductible and cost cap. Now, the new CDCF will do it for them.

For services received under CHAMPUS before Oct. 1, 1994, the old system will still be used. Service family members who received care before this date in more than one state and who sent claims to more than one CHAMPUS claims processor should mail the EOB that's received from one claims processor to all other processors to whom a claim was sent. The EOB will tell the other processor how much the family has paid toward satisfying the deductible and meeting the catastrophic cap for the fiscal year.

(Office of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Service)

DREAM, from page 2

New York believes he has nothing for which to vote. No! No, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until 'justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.'

"I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations. Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells. Some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom has left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been veterans of creative suffering. Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi. Go back to Alabama. Go back to South Carolina. Go back to Georgia. Go back to Louisiana. Go back to the slums and ghettos of our Northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair.

"I say to you today, my friends, so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed, 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.' I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, sons of former slaves and sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have

a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice. I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

"I have a dream today!

"I have a dream that one day down in Alabama -- with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification -- one day right here in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers.

"I have a dream today!

"I have a dream today that one day 'every valley shall be exalted and every hill and mountain shall be made low. The rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together.'

"This is our hope. This is our faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith we shall be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail

together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing we will be free one day. And this will be the day. This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, 'My country 'tis of thee sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring.' And if America is a great nation, this must come true.

"So let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire; let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York; let freedom ring from the snow-capped Rockies of Colorado; let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California. But not only that. Let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia; let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain, Tennessee; let freedom ring from every hilltop and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

"And when this happens, and when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will all be able to speed up that day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: 'Free at last. Free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.'"

City's restaurants now all smoke-free

SAN FRANCISCO -- An important public health milestone went into effect Jan. 1. On that date, all restaurants in the City and County of San Francisco were required to become smoke-free. If a restaurant contains a bar, the bar area of the restaurant is not required to, but may, prohibit smoking.

"Now restaurant workers -- who often do not have any choice on whether they want to work in smoke-filled environments -- will also be protected," said Robert Vazquez, MD, president of the San Francisco Division of the American Heart Association. "This measure is good for workers' health." Public places and other worksites such as offices and stores went smoke-free on Feb. 1, 1994.

The Board of Supervisors unanimously passed the landmark legislation on Nov. 15, 1993, after mounting scientific data demonstrated the effects of secondhand smoke. The EPA classified environmental tobacco smoke as a Class A carcinogen in January,

1993.

"The public's consciousness of the dangers of passive smoking is constantly growing," said Vazquez. "And since communities that have already implemented smoke-free ordinances for restaurants have experienced no proven negative economic effects, smoke-free is good for business as well as health."

The Department of Public Health estimates that 400 - 500 restaurants of the 4,000 in San Francisco are already smoke-free.

The success of San Francisco's smoke-free ordinance is especially noteworthy, as the city is one of the nation's top tourist destinations and the \$4 billion hospitality sector is the city's top industry.

The San Francisco Department of Public Health will provide referral for individuals who would like to register a complaint of violation of the smoke-free standard. To get a referral, call (415) 554-9151 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

(American Heart Association)

The Sixth U.S. Army family lost two dearly loved members in December. Lt. Col. (Ret.) Stephen J. Zaleski, Jr., and Kristi Wenn Sather Walsh both passed away recently. The Star Presidian staff joins their fellow Presidians in extending our condolences to the bereaved families.

The back page

OPM announces new hiring practices

By Evelyn D. Harris

American Forces Information Service

The federal government lifted two barriers to federal entry-level hiring for professional and administrative occupations late last year.

One action eliminates registers -- the Office of Personnel Management's central lists used to refer job candidates to agencies needing to fill entry-level jobs. The other eliminates reliance on a written test as a single examining method and provides agencies with more examining options based on their specific needs.

The changes fulfill a recommendation of the Clinton administration's National Performance Review, said OPM Director Jim King. He said he expects the changes to the Administrative Careers with America exams to result in a skilled, committed and diverse work force.

The exams replaced the old Professional and Administrative Career Examination four years ago, after court plaintiffs claimed the old test adversely affected minority hiring. The current exams cover 110 occupations, such as economist, criminal investigator and contract specialist. The exams are separated into six broad occupational groups. For example, one exam tests potential personnel, administrative and computer specialists, while another tests applicants for a wide variety of jobs in law enforcement and investigation.

Rosalie Cameron, deputy director of OPM's Office of Communications, said changes in the examination and register process address complaints by both employers and potential applicants.

"For example, the test doesn't find out whether a potential Immigration and Naturalization Service agent had the ability to learn languages with ease," Cameron said. "It's important for agency officials to know such things about an applicant before they spend too much on training someone unsuited for the job."

Under the modified examination, applicants will apply for specific job openings rather than broad occupational groups. Taking a test will no longer be the compulsory first step in the examination process. Instead, applicants will complete surveys detailing their qualifications and experience

and send these to OPM with a resume.

OPM will score the questionnaires to determine the most highly qualified candidates and then send hiring agencies a list of the best qualified applicants. In addition, agencies may require applicants to take a written test for specific occupations. Agencies can still choose to use the Administrative Careers with America test or a test of their own design.

Agencies also lost time and money from the registry system because they had to contact many applicants who were not interested in the positions offered, said Cameron.

"Meanwhile, potential employees who might have been interested languished on the register without knowing the jobs were available," she said.

Job seekers can find out about available job openings by calling **1-912-757-3000** or contacting their nearest OPM service center. The application questionnaires are straightforward and easy to complete, said officials. Applicants apply for specific job openings of interest to them in locations where they wish to work.

Cameron said people who already have taken the test and whose names are on the central lists will receive a letter explaining they will have to apply for specific jobs in the future. She also stressed the government is hiring fewer people these days -- only 21,489 employees came into the system in 1992, and fewer than that will start work in 1995.

Federal Job Numbers

Federal Information Service Center - **1-800-726-4995**

Dept. of Interior Job Hotline - **1-800-336-4562**

General Service Administration Job Hotline - **1-800-347-3378**

HUD Job Hotline - **(415) 556-6000**

Bureau of Land Management - **(916) 978-4533**

Bureau of Reclamation - **(916) 978-5017**

National Park Service (Personnel) - **(415) 744-3888**

National Park Service Job Hotline - **(415) 744-3884**

National Bureau of Indian Affairs - **(503) 231-2216**

Office of Personnel Management

24-Hour Information Recording - **(415) 744-JOBS**

24-Hour Application Information Only - **(415) 744-7205**

Dept. of Veterans Affairs Job Hotline - **(510) 372-2021**

Health & Human Services - **(415) 556-1088**

Environmental Protection Agency - **(415) 744-1111**

U.S. Mint - **(415) 744-9364**

California Dept. of Forestry - **(916) 653-5121**

California Dept. of Parks & Recreation - **(916) 653-9903**

Riverside County Personnel Dept.

Riverside - **(909) 275-3553**

Indio - **(619) 863-8970**

Palm Springs/Palm Desert - **(909) 345-3223**

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Master Sgt. Donald L. Banks

Friday the 13th lucky for bus driver, kids

By Master Sgt. Donald L. Banks
Sixth U.S. Army Public Affairs Office

A feeling of shock and a sigh of relief were the feelings two families felt the afternoon of Jan. 13, when a 65-foot pine tree nearly struck a Laidlaw school bus on Presidio Boulevard.

Five children from the Presidio were aboard the bus when Joe Meyer, a Laidlaw bus driver since 1988, swerved and avoided a possible injury accident.

"I heard a loud, cracking sound," said Meyer. "Then I saw the tree settle and begin falling onto the street. I had just enough time to avoid the tree directly striking the bus."

Responding to the incident immediately were units from the U.S. Military and Park Police, Presidio Fire Department, and crews from the Park Service Grounds and Maintenance Department.

According to a military police officer who surveyed the situation, "the bus driver did an exceptional job of avoiding a direct hit, which could have caused injuries to the passengers and damage to the bus."

Meyer, a Tech Sgt. flight engineer with the Air Force Reserves and a Desert Shield/Desert Storm veteran, attributes his quick reactions to his military and civilian driver training.

"Recognizing what was happening and knowing the Presidio helped a lot," said the 40-year-old San Francisco resident.

Capt. Matt Kiolbassa, Presidio Fire Department, said, "There have been 12 falling tree-related incidents on the Presidio" since the worst storms in nearly a decade struck California, causing flooding, mud slides, road closures and five deaths. Of the 12 incidents, two involved vehicular damage, one resulted in a 10- to 14-hour power outage and the remainder caused no damage.

Kiolbassa pointed out that the age of the trees on the Presidio, combined with heavy rains and high winds, "creates these types of unstable conditions."

He also issued a word of warning to Presidians and park visitors that while the "Presidio is experiencing such harsh weather conditions, everyone should exercise more caution and be extra mindful of dangerous conditions in forested areas."

The fire department is encouraging anyone witnessing a tree striking vehicles, power lines or housing units to call their emergency number (561-5656). To report downed trees which caused no damage, call their regular business number (561-4220).

VSI/SSB News

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Barrett
American Forces Information Service

Service members who receive Voluntary Separation Incentive and Special Separation Benefit payments now face losing them if hired by DoD after Oct. 1, 1994.

As part of the fiscal 1995 Defense Appropriations Act, members who separate with VSI or SSB forfeit those benefits if hired to DoD civilian positions within 180 days of separation. President Bill Clinton signed the act in September 1994. The sanction applies to active duty members and full-time National Guardsmen.

Defense officials said Congress became concerned about possible unfairness. Some former service members took the special payments, separated and then returned as DoD civilians -- to do the same jobs they had just left.

The law affects only those who separate and are hired after Sept. 30, 1994. Service members released from duty before Oct. 1, 1994, retain their VSI/SSB payments regardless when hired. All VSI/SSB recipients appointed to DoD civilian positions after the 180-day period passes also retain their separation bonuses.

Service members separated under VSI receive annual payments based on rank and time served. Those leaving under SSB receive a lump-sum payment, also based on rank and longevity.

Under the provision, officials said, DoD will use "established debt collection procedures" to recover VSI/SSB payments from affected new hires.

DoD officials are currently developing guidance with the services. They are asking each service to add this policy to the written agreements service members sign before separation. This is to ensure service members know about the law before accepting VSI/SSB.

In addition, DoD is asking all civilian personnel offices to verify whether potential new hires are within the 180-day window. Local personnel offices will report affected applicants to their servicing finance offices. The Defense Accounting and Finance Service will advise these new employees of the recoupment actions.

The services are developing procedures for handling problems. In the interim, service members studying VSI/SSB options and DoD civilian employment should check with both local transition assistance and civilian personnel offices for updates.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I am a soldier assigned to the Presidio of San Francisco. Recently I had a disturbing experience with the Main Exchange here.

On Dec. 4, 1994, I went to the PX to purchase a television set. I found the set I wanted, which was a JVC 25" color television. On the display I saw the price of \$299. I went to the sales clerk and stated that I wanted to purchase that exact television set. The sales clerk stated that she would go to the back and bring back the television set in a moment.

After approximately 15 minutes, the sales clerk returned without the television set and said that the price on the display was wrong; the television would cost another \$50.

I asked the sales clerk why the price would increase. She stated that no one had taken the sales price off the television from about three weeks ago. I then decided that I would still purchase the television set and told the sales clerk this. The sales clerk stated that she would go into the back and bring back the TV.

Another 15 minutes passed and she again returned without the TV. The sales clerk stated that the people in the back told her that all of their stock was out in the show area. As I looked around the show area, the only other TV I saw was a JVC 27" color TV priced at \$599. The only other electronics equipment that I saw was stereo equipment. I couldn't understand why they would still display the TV if they didn't have it in stock anymore. The sales clerk then stated that she could order me one and it would arrive approximately four to six weeks later. When I first entered the PX, I planned to purchase a TV -- not order one.

I then asked the sales clerk if she would ask the sound center manager whether I could purchase the display TV, either at a reduced price or the price advertised. She

said she would ask the manager.

After another 15 minutes of waiting, she returned and stated that the manager said she would not sell the display because they could order me a television. I needed a TV then, not in four to six weeks! If I wanted a TV in four to six weeks, I would have ordered one in the first place.

I then asked to see the manager of the PX. The person who approached me was the sound center manager. I asked her the same question about purchasing the display, and she stated that she had already told me that she was not going to sell the display. I asked again to see the PX manager, and she stated that the PX manager would only tell me the same thing, so I did not need to see him.

I have never been treated so rudely in my life as I was that day. At another time I asked to purchase a display model from the PX and they had no problem selling it to me at a reduced price. Why will they sell a display one day and not another? Why do they keep displays up for which they do not have items in stock?

I also asked when they sold the last TV, because if it had only been a day or two, I could understand it. But they stated that they sold the last TV of this type about two months ago. If they were running out of an item, why didn't they restock it in time to have some items on hand?

I have talked to other soldiers stationed at the Presidio, and they have also had many problems with the PX. One soldier went to the PX and ordered a military M9 knife. The PX stated that they would order it and the soldier paid for the item at that time. After approximately three months, he returned to the PX to inquire about the knife. The PX personnel stated that they had not ordered it yet but that the order would be placed.

After another month, the soldier found the same knife in a catalog, ordered it at a

lower price than the PX, and received it the next day. He returned to the PX and told them that he wanted to cancel the order and get a refund. PX personnel stated that they still had not placed the order and then became upset with the soldier because he did not come in and complain enough about not receiving the knife in a timely manner.

Although we as military members do not pay tax on these items, we still can find many of them off post at a cheaper price than the PX offers. The PX also states that if their sales do not increase they will close, because they are losing too much money. I say their prices are too outrageous and that is why they are losing money. I have gone to other PX's and found the same items at a lower price than our PX sells them. Why is this?

Why can't the soldiers get items when they need them and not have to order and wait four to six weeks? Why can't the PX staff place "out of stock" tags on items on back order? Why can't they keep items in stock?

Gregory T. Kluck
Law Enforcement Detachment

THE PX RESPONDS

Dear Editor:

Thank you for the opportunity of allowing me to address Sgt. Kluck's concerns while setting the record straight.

I apologize for the way Sgt. Kluck was treated and the incorrect information that was provided to him. I fully agree that the situation was not handled correctly. What should have been a very simple transaction was turned into a customer nightmare.

First of all, if a sale price was left on an item and not removed after the sale, it should be an AAFES problem and not a customer

See LETTER, page 8

Star Presidian

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Presidio Pulse

Environmental News

The Army has found low concentrations of dioxins and furans at two locations in the Presidio during a recent investigation of old fuel pipelines, but test results show that the levels are so low neither the public nor the workers cleaning the pipeline are at risk.

The dioxin discovered in the soil surrounding leaking pipelines is one of the less toxic forms, sometimes associated with the chemical pentachlorophenol. There was no detection of 2,3,7,8 TCDD, the most dangerous and widely studied dioxin.

A 20,000-foot pipeline formerly used to distribute heating fuel throughout the post is being investigated and the surrounding soil cleaned as part of the Army's efforts to clean up contaminated sites at the former military installation. During the investigation, 14 areas along the pipeline showed evidence of leaking. Soil samples at three sites were selected for the initial screening of dioxin when it was discovered that recycled fuel may have been used in the pipelines in past years. Pentachlorophenol, a chemical associated with dioxin, can sometimes be found in recycled fuel. When tested, two of the three sites sampled showed low levels of dioxin. The numbers are well below the level in which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency would suggest cleanup and are similar to levels found in any urban setting. The Army will continue testing for dioxin at the other leak locations and will perform tests to determine the origin of dioxins found.

Dioxins are a group of chemical compounds inadvertently produced through a number of activities including combustion, incineration, some types of chemical manufacturing, chlorinated bleaching of pulp and paper and other industrial processes. There are more than two hundred known types of dioxins.

For more information, please contact Rena Davies, BRAC Environmental Public Affairs Office, at (415) 561-2196.

Town Hall meeting

The "Town Hall" meeting (formerly the Community Action Council) will meet at 6 p.m., Feb. 8, in the ballroom at the Presidio Community Club. All mayors, area coordinators, directorates and Presidio community members are invited to attend. For information, contact Laura Pierce, Army Community Service, at (415) 561-3612.

Office closure

The Housing Office will be closed Feb. 3. The staff will be attending training. The office will resume operation at 8 a.m., Feb. 6.

New office hours

Effective immediately, the ID Card Section's new hours will be 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Flea Market

The Presidio Spouses Club will sponsor a flea market, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., Feb. 4, inside the Main Post gym. Spaces are only \$5 and crafters are welcome. Sellers must have a military ID but everyone is welcome to buy. First come, first served—so come early. Call ACS at (415) 561-3612 for information.

Family Support Group

The Presidio Family Support Group will host its monthly coffee at 7 p.m., Feb. 13, at the Community Center. The Staff Judge Advocate will present tax information and answer any questions. The new commissary manager will also be there to tell us about our commissary. Please join us for an informative and fun evening.

Water outages

Local water outages will occur in the Parade Ground area over the next few days, according to the following schedule:

Jan. 27: Keyes Street (Buildings 37, 38, 39).

Jan. 30 and 31: Mesa and Funston Streets (Buildings 2, 3, 4 through 16, 56, 57, 58, 59, 61, 65).

Areas to be affected should only include buildings in the immediate area. However, all buildings located in the vicinity should prepare for intermittent water outages. Buildings 38 and 39 will be provided with two port-a-potties during the outage period.

Construction crews will be installing individual building water meters and mainline water shut-off valves.

Water outages will be intermittent. Outages will only occur on weekdays and can be expected to begin as early as 8 a.m. Water service should be restored no later than 4 p.m. each day. Water will be available overnight.

Some disturbance of the lawn areas can be expected. However, areas will be landscaped and reseeded when all work is completed.

Occupants should check their sinks and toilets after water is energized. If you have problems, call the Navy Public Works at (415) 556-3643. Questions should be directed to the Corps of Engineers at (415) 346-0565.

Housing briefings

There is so much to do and so little time when you are preparing to move. Shipment of household goods, clearing the installation and, of course, clearing government quarters.

The first step to clear quarters is to schedule a pre-termination inspection. The housing office will no longer perform pre-termination inspections at your quarters. A pre-termination briefing for groups has been developed.

Beginning Feb. 7, pre-termination briefings will be conducted on Tuesdays at 8:45 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:45 p.m. in Building 204. The briefing will take approximately one hour. You do not need orders to attend. In fact, you should schedule an appointment for the briefing 45 to 60 days prior to your estimated departure date.

Once you have made arrangements with Transportation for the shipment of household goods, call or visit the Housing Office to schedule your final termination inspection. You should plan on approximately three days to clean your quarters. Whether you opt to clean the quarters yourself or hire a cleaning team, remember that you must be present at the final termination inspection.

Our goal is to inform you of your responsibilities to ensure quarters are properly cleared, and assist you in any way we can.



"Safety first" when skiing this season

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Barrett
American Forces Information Service

Service members who ski often get opportunities other recreational skiers only dream about. A military skier tackling slopes at Vail and Aspen, Colo., last season could be skiing in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, this year.

Many ski areas, both in the United States and at armed forces recreation centers overseas, offer package deals with reduced rates for military personnel. Installation recreation centers work with regional slopes to provide service members and their families affordable skiing trips. These trips include lift tickets, equipment and instruction for beginning skiers.

Skiers, both experienced and novice, should keep safety in mind when preparing for the slopes. Gerald Martin, safety director at Fort Carson, Colo., published a list of precautions that helps skiers prepare. Martin said ski safety begins with the equipment.

"If you own your equipment, keep it in good condition," he said. "This includes waxing skis, adjusting ski bindings and checking boots for a snug fit." If renting, Martin said be sure the ski shop provides reliable equipment.

Many bases near ski slopes have outdoor recreation centers that rent skis,

boots and poles -- often at prices lower than commercial venues. They also provide routine maintenance and can fit skiers with the proper equipment they'll need.

Another concern is wearing proper clothes. With snow, cold and wind, wearing the right clothes means you can ski longer. Gloves and hats will help prevent frostbite, while goggles and sunglasses provide eye protection from glare and errant branches along trails.



Once on the slopes, novice skiers need proper instruction. Martin said inexperienced skiers should first learn the basic skills before they challenge trails. This includes proper warm ups, avoiding obstructions such as fallen branches

and rocks and learning how to use ski lifts.

It also means learning how to fall and how to get up after a spill. "Bracing a fall with an arm or knee can cause injury," said Martin. He said when skiers fall, they should try to land on their rear with their legs in front. To get up, Martin suggested tucking knees under the body, placing the skis across the slope, and using the skis to stand.

Safe skiing is responsible skiing, and Martin said that means skiing under control and obeying the rules. "Don't go so fast that you can't stop or turn to avoid other skiers or obstacles on the trail," said Martin.

Ski area managers designate slopes by difficulty -- ranging from beginners' "bunny trails" to the most challenging slopes. Martin said skiers should ski to their ability level and gradually work up to more demanding slopes or routes. He also warned skiers to stay off closed slopes and trails. Most trails close because of hazards.

Responsible skiing also means knowing the proper ski courtesy. Martin said simple things like yielding to other skiers when entering a trail will prevent collisions. He warned skiers to never stop where they block a trail or where skiers can't see another person from above.

Presidio swimmers victorious again

By Maj. Mike Koplin
Special to the Star Presidian

The Presidio Youth Swim team hosted a swim meet against the Oakland, Embarcadero, and Stonestown YMCA teams Jan. 21. In all, 56 swim events were held in individual and relay freestyle, back stroke, breast stroke, and butterfly.

The Presidio team consists of 30 swimmers ranging in ages from 8 to 15, who are coached by Nina Kannett and Maj. Mike Koplin. Since the season began last October, the coaches have noticed a significant improvement in many swimmers.

In last Saturday's meet, the Presidio swimmers won 73 first place, 38 second place, 23 third place, 10 fourth place, five fifth place and four sixth place ribbons. It was quite a victory for the team.

Individual team members were awarded

the following ribbons:

Mathew McGarity: two 1st, one 2nd, one 3rd.

Lara Mathers: three 1st, 1 2nd, one 3rd.

Slim Merila: two 1st, three 2nd.

Abby Jensen: two 1st, four 2nd, one 3rd.

Sabrina Campbell: four 1st, three 2nd.

Jason Tingstrom: seven 1st, one 2nd.

Brandon Koplin: four 1st, one 3rd, one 5th.

Jessica Marek: six 1st, three 2nd.

Sara Uldricks: one 1st, four 2nd.

Julia Dakin: three 1st, one 2nd, one 6th.

Cynthia Pace: two 1st, one 2nd, one 3rd.

Jessica Banks: two 1st, three 3rd, one 4th.

Natalie Larcier: one 1st, one 3rd, one 6th.

Jennifer Shino: three 1st, two 3rd, one 4th.

Jeremy Horn: one 2nd, one 3rd, one 4th, one 6th.

Robby Lewis: two 1st, one 2nd.

Monica Walsh: three 3rd.

Candice Shino: two 3rd.

Joy Hazelwood: one 3rd, one 4th.

Jeremy Beecher: five 1st, two 2nd.

Cory Jensen: one 1st, two 3rd, one 4th.

Rebekah Koplin: five 1st, two 2nd, one 5th.

Jessica Andersen: two 2nd, one 3rd, two 4th, one 6th.

Jenna Sanders: one 1st, three 2nd, one 5th.

Veronica Marek: one 1st, two 3rd, one 4th.

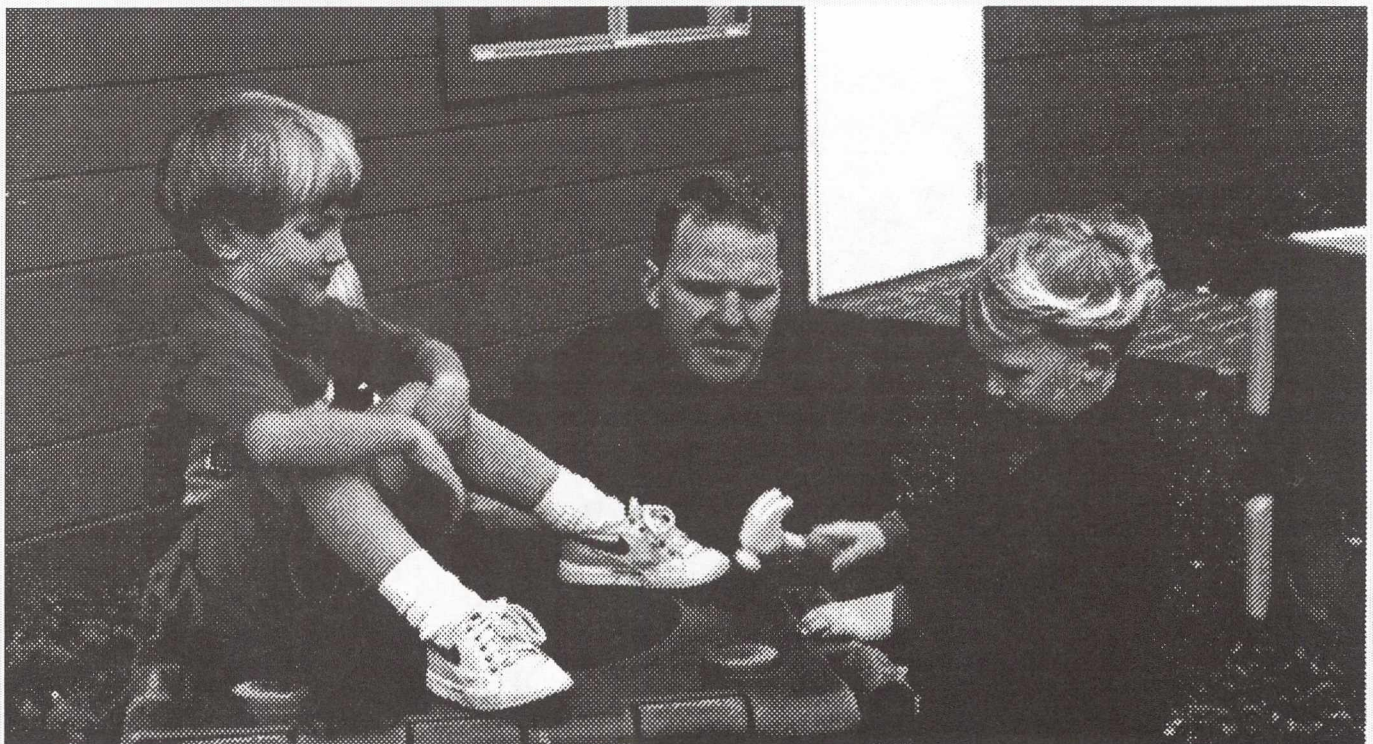
Chris Nolan: three 1st, two 2nd.

Kristi Koplin: four 1st, two 2nd.

Kacie Andersen: three 1st, one 4th, two 5th.

Paul Dixon: five 1st.

The next Presidio swim meet is Feb. 18. Come out and enjoy the action.



Presidio Child Observation Class

Look what I can do, Daddy!

The Presidio Child Observation Class, which meets from 9 a.m. to noon Tuesdays and Thursdays, is a place for parents and children. Parents come with their children (18 months to kindergarten age) to participate in a Child Growth and Development Class. This is a nursery school experience for both parent and child and is offered free of charge as a community service by City College of San Francisco.

Instructor Marlene Baar guides parents in a cooperative effort to provide play experiences that teach constructive social and communication skills. The children enjoy art projects, painting, music, manipulative table toys, large and fine motor activities, dramatic and imaginary play.

More parents and children are encouraged to join. The class is located in Building 1599 Pershing Drive. Turn at 1537 Pershing and follow the drive behind the housing units to the courtyard. Ample parking is available at the Center.

(Presidio Child Observation Class)

Self-Help STORE ASSISTS WITH HOUSEHOLD REPAIRS

By Maj. Jim Alello
Special to the Star Presidian

Self-help is a program which allows the voluntary participation of family housing occupants in the maintenance and improvement of Army family housing. The concept of self-help is also one of self-gratification and the general feeling of accomplishment in bettering your personal living conditions.

Through the Department of Public Works' (DPW) Self-Help Program, Presidio of San Francisco housing residents are able to receive materials, advice and equip-

ment which permit them to perform minor maintenance repairs within their Army family housing quarters. Now, more than ever, we need to use this program which has proven to be a great time and money saver. By performing self-help tasks themselves, residents are able to eliminate disruptions to their busy schedules vice waiting for the DPW maintenance mechanic.

The Self-Help Store, located in Building 204, has a number of items available for issue to residents. The following is a partial listing of items we have in stock at the store.

Tools/equipment: garden hose, garden

rake, garden hoe, grass shears, hose nozzle, weed eater, lawn rake, shovels, push mower, electric mower, edger, shovel.

Materials: aerators, bulbs, caulking, door-stops, furnace filters, fertilizer, grass seed, garbage cans and lids, soap holder, paint, switch/receptacle plate cover, towel racks.

The Self-Help outlet's hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday, closed Sunday, Monday and holidays, and open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon. Questions regarding the Self-Help outlet can be addressed to Hector Almonte at (415) 561-3664.

Presidio Focus



Congratulations!

Novato's first baby of the new year was born to Lt. Col. Brian A. Lelnes, Sixth U.S. Army Mobilization Plans Branch, and his wife, Denise. Neal Spencer Lelnes, shown here with his proud father, was born at 7:09 a.m., Jan. 2, at Novato Community Hospital. Neal is the Lelnes' first child. (Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Brian A. Lelnes)

Medics honored by Military Police

By Pvt. 2 James C. Baber
Special to the Star Presidian

Spc. Melissa Duke and Spc. Bradley Duke were presented with plaques by the Presidio Military Police Detachment Jan. 12, in recognition of their dedicated service to all of the MP's here. These medics provides medical services any time called upon, day or night. Not only were their services always available, they were always done in the most professional manner possible. The Dukes are currently on orders to Hawaii and will be leaving the Presidio at the end of the month. On behalf of the Presidio Military Police Detachment, the Dukes are wished the best of luck in their future assignments.



Spc. Kenton Goolsby

Spc. Melissa Duke accepts her award from Staff Sgt. James Sinclair while Spc. Bradley Duke looks on and Maj. Corbin Lee reads the citation.

Is something special happening in your life or around your office? If so, please notify the Star Presidian by calling (415) 561-2192, or bring photographs and information directly to the Sixth U.S. Army Public Affairs Office in Building 38. We'd love to include you and your family in "Presidio Focus."

Correspondence courses provide education options for many soldiers

If you want to continue your education or learn a new skill but can't make it to school, don't give up. An option for many is to study at home by correspondence course.

Home, or correspondence, study is enrollment with an institution for a prescribed series of lessons completed at home and mailed to the institution, said Distance Education and Training Council officials.

Individuals who plan to leave the military and don't have time to attend school might consider a correspondence course. Courses vary from a few quick lessons completed in a week to hundreds of requirements with years of work. Some courses offer college degrees, while others offer personal improvement and are just for fun. Some are free, like most offered by the federal government, while others cost from a few to thousands of dollars.

Completion of any correspondence study program does not guarantee that an employer, college registrar or other activity will give credit for the course. Council officials recommend checking beforehand the specific crediting policies of colleges and potential employers.

Before you sign up for a correspondence course, check several things, said council officials. Check with an education counselor or the school to find out if the military's tuition assistance program or Montgomery

GI Bill will pay all or some of the course costs. If not, you pay the entire cost.

Check the school's reputation with the state's education department, Better Business Bureau and the Chamber of Commerce where the school is located. Does the school have a sound business reputation, and is it considered ethical, truthful and a good value? Are there complaints from former students?

Make sure the school is one of the more than 60 institutions accredited by the council. This isn't to say every good school participates in the accreditation process, but if yours doesn't, the council recommends you double check its reputation and ask hard questions before enrolling.

The council is the designated accrediting agency for U.S. military correspondence institutes and is recognized by the Department of Education as a nationally recognized accrediting agency. School accreditation is voluntary. An institute asks to be accredited and undergoes a rigorous process that takes from six months to a year. Council officials said accreditation means the school meets at least minimum standards and offers quality instruction.

Compare courses offered by several schools to determine the one best suited for your needs. Make sure the course material is up-to-date. Ensure that you have answers to

all your questions before you commit.

Don't feel alone if you decide to take a correspondence course, said council officials. More than 3 million people take some type of course every year. Many federal employees -- about 2 million military and civilian -- enroll in correspondence courses. The federal government offers more courses than any other organization in the world. Just a few government agencies that offer correspondence programs include the Marine Corps Institute, the Army Institute for Professional Development and the Office of Personnel Management.

For a free copy of the council's Directory of Accredited Institutions or for more information on correspondence courses, write to:

Distance Education and Training Council

1601 18th St. NW
Washington, DC 20009.

Installation education centers can also provide information on home study courses offered through the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support and other agencies.

Council officials recommend that you check with an installation education counselor before enrolling in any correspondence course.

(American Forces Information Service)

Chinatown rings in "Year of the Boar" with parade

The Year of the Boar charges in on Tuesday, marking the commencement of the 1995 San Francisco Chronicle Chinese New Year Parade and Festival. Lunar Year 4693 will be welcomed with various exciting events during the Chinese New Year festivities.

Some events sure to hog the spotlight during this two-week annual celebration are the Chinese New Year Flower Market Fair (tomorrow and Sunday); Miss Chinatown USA Pageant (Feb. 4), Coronation Ball (Feb. 10) and Fashion Show (Feb. 11); the Chinatown 10K Run (Feb. 5), and; the Chinatown Community Fair (Feb. 11 and 12).

The climax of the 1995 Chinese New Year Festival will be the San Francisco Chronicle Chinese New Year Parade, organized by the Chinese Chamber of Commerce. This year's parade theme, "3,000 Years of Science, Discovery and Invention," promises to be far from boring for parade watch-

ers, as the elaborate sponsor floats will depict just a small number of the amazing things that the Chinese have invented and discovered.

Celebrating its sixth year as title sponsor of the series of events, the San Francisco Chronicle floats will appropriately depict the theme "The Art of Paper." Paper was invented in China in 105 AD. Southwest Airlines, presenting sponsor and official domestic airline of Chinese New Year, will sponsor a float featuring giant Chinese kites and humorous flying machines entitled "The Origins of Aviation." Kites were invented by the Chinese approximately 2,400 years ago. The theme for Bank of America's float will be "The Creation of Silk." Legend has it that more than 4,000 years ago Lei Zu, wife of the Chinese Emperor Huang Di, created the first silk.

Other innovative Chinese inventions include the game of Keno, which will be aptly depicted on the California Lottery float,

and fireworks, which will be featured on a float for the first time in the parade's history.

A colorful group representing the state of Hawaii, including Hawaiian-born San Franciscans and a Honolulu contingent, will also be participating in the parade for the first time.

Other fresh ideas include a "San Francisco Mile of Lions," a dramatic block-long array of lion dancing, drums and cymbals, and the "International Drum Fest," which incorporates drums from many nations to create a spectacular production. The parade will be televised live on KTVU, Channel 2, and KTSF, Channel 26 (in Chinese). It will also be shown on the Travel Channel throughout the United States.

For more information regarding the festival or parade events, contact the parade office at (415) 391-9680.

(San Francisco Convention & Visitors' Bureau)

The back page

Civilian RIF, retirement briefings by Fort Lewis CPO announced

As Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army approaches inactivation, the Commander is concerned about the future employment opportunities of our employees, and he is fully supportive in their efforts to seek and secure continued Federal employment. For this reason, he has authorized the early registration of all Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army employees in the Department of Defense Priority Placement Program (PPP).

The CPO, Fort Lewis, will conduct a reduction in force/PPP briefing Feb. 2 at the Community Center ballroom for all civilian employees. Attendance is **mandatory**. The briefing will be-

gin at 8 a.m. and will continue until 4 p.m. with breaks. Representatives from the State Employment Development Department and Private Industry Council will also be present to provide information on retraining and unemployment benefits.

Registration in PPP prior to receipt of a specific written RIF notice is called early registration. Early registration is strictly voluntary on the part of the employee. Employees who are otherwise eligible for PPP registration may register now as Program "A" -- Priority 1 candidates. They will then receive priority consideration for DoD employment.

Employees may also delay registration if they do not wish to register at this time.

PPP registration will be conducted Feb. 6 through 9 in the Readiness Group Conference Room, in the basement of Building 39.

CPO is also in the process of scheduling two retirement briefings for Feb. 22. DCSPER will inform directorates once the date is confirmed. Representatives from the Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service and Franchise Tax Board will be on hand to answer questions.

(Fort Lewis Sub-Installation)

LETTER, from page 2

problem. In Sgt. Kluck's case, the displayed sale price should have been honored.

As for selling a display item, there is no rule that provides for a discount on display merchandise. Because of this, the discount policy is at the discretion of local management and will vary from store to store. At the Presidio of San Francisco Exchange, if a display item has no visible or known damage and is complete with all accessories, it is normally sold at the regular sell price. If items show signs of wear, such as scratches, dents or the like, the merchandise is marked down accordingly. In addition, other things must be taken into consideration. For example, a television that has been used as a demo but has no signs of wear would be discounted, since it would not be fair to sell a used item at full price. Our goal is to do what's fair for the customer as well as AAFES.

Sgt. Kluck was given incorrect information when he was told that it would take four to six weeks to order the television that

he wanted. We obtain our merchandise from many different sources in the United States, including ordering directly from companies through in-store vendor visits. Approximately 70 percent of the merchandise stocked in the Main Exchange is ordered from the Oakland Distribution Center. If an item in this category is in stock, we can get it in the store for the customer within three to four days.

Finally, the pricing policy should be addressed. There are a number of reasons why prices vary from store to store. A good example is when one store deletes an item from their stock assortment because of low customer demand. In order to clear the merchandise, they will lower the price. Another example is that in certain areas where we have strong local competition, we get into what is known as a "price war." In a price war, the AAFES price is beat, then lowered; and back and forth it goes. However, regardless of the reason for any pricing difference, please rest assured that my staff

and I will gladly assist our customers in obtaining the lowest price possible.

In an effort to resolve Sgt. Kluck's complaint, the Sound Center Sales Area Manager and I met with him concerning the above issues (it should be noted that the Sound Center Sales Area Manager is not the Sound Center Manager with whom Sgt. Kluck initially spoke). Although we would have liked to have discussed the issue with the associates involved, Sgt. Kluck was unable to identify the employees who spoke with him. That notwithstanding, we have re-emphasized AAFES and local policies concerning display merchandise, pricing, ordering lead times, and customer service with our associates.

My staff and I maintain an open door policy and welcome customer comments and suggestions. Please feel free to pay us a visit or to call us if any assistance is required.

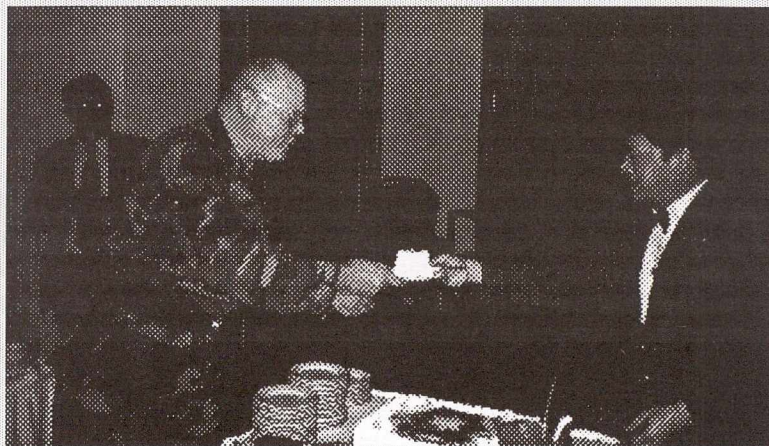
Thomas P. Gross
General Manager

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Feb. 10, 1995



Happy birthday to us!

Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., accepts the first piece of cake at the reception honoring Sixth U.S. Army's 52nd anniversary. Soldiers and civilians joined the commanding general at the Presidio Community Club for the birthday party after a moving retreat ceremony. See page 4 for more photos of the event. (Photo by Sgt. Maj. Pat Maddox)

Civilians provided with transition information

By Sharon E. Everett-Roles
Star Presidian staff

With the coming disestablishment of Sixth U.S. Army Headquarters, civilian employees need to plan their futures -- whether to retire, take a separation incentive, or seek other employment, either in the federal or private sector.

To aid the decision-making process, Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., commander of Sixth U.S. Army, hosted a series of briefings for civilians Feb. 2 at the Presidio Community Club.

"We have always taken care of our people and will continue to do so until the last member of Sixth Army leaves the Presidio," Mallory said.

The first speaker was Dennis Roden, who works at the Ft. Lewis, Wash., Employment Services Branch. Roden said that Ft. Lewis plans to start issuing RIF notices beginning May 22, with an effective date of Sept. 29.

Roden also stated that Department of the Army has approved a "buyout window" for either Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) or Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP). Employees may take advantage of these programs, if eligible, any

time between now and Aug. 30. Roden went on to say that employees considering retirement or VERA should attend Ft. Lewis's on-site retirement seminar here, Feb. 22 through 24.

Charles Collins, a former Presidio employee who now serves as assistant coordinator of DoD's Civilian Assistance and Re-employment (CARE) program, discussed policy and procedures regarding the Priority Placement Program (PPP).

Collins highlighted several important points about PPP. For instance, if an employee is eligible for severance pay, he or she must register under PPP for at least the local commuting area. An employee may either register early, which has been approved by Gen. Mallory, or wait until mandatory registration following receipt of the RIF letter.

Collins also said that those who receive job offers through PPP will have four calendar days in which to respond to the offer. The reporting date for the new job is normally two weeks from the date of acceptance, but can be extended to 30 days if both the gaining and losing agencies agree.

If placed in a federal job before the effective date of the RIF, employees will have

both grade and pay retention, Collins said. If placed after the RIF, employees will earn "last earned rate," which is the closest step equivalent in the new grade to what you were earning previously, he added.

The next two speakers, Marquitta Mayes and Anna Lostari, represented the California Employment Development Department (EDD). The two spoke about numerous EDD issues, with Lostari providing important information regarding unemployment benefits.

Among the points emphasized by Lostari were two that are of particular importance to Presidians. The first is that leaving the job voluntarily (i.e., VERA/VSIP) negates your right to unemployment insurance. The second is that, should you remain on the rolls until the RIF is effective, your severance pay does not affect your unemployment benefit; you may draw both simultaneously. In fact, Lostari recommended that employees file their unemployment claims immediately upon separation rather than waiting until other resources have been depleted.

EDD will have an on-site office for both job bank and unemployment registration.

See TRANSITION, page 8

Tax Corner

Married, single, divorced or separated, and with or without family members are determining factors when it comes to your filing status on federal tax returns, said Internal Revenue Service officials.

Before you fill out the tax return, you must determine which is the best filing status. For some individuals, like singles with no dependents, there isn't a choice. They must file as a single taxpayer. However, those married can choose to file as married filing separately or married filing jointly. The other filing status options are head of household and qualifying widow or widower.

IRS officials said choosing the correct filing status could save you money, so you should look at all options. For example, if you are married, your federal taxes might be less if you file married filing separately than if you filed a joint tax return. You may want to try filling out two tax returns -- married filing jointly and married filing separately -- to determine which is the best option, IRS officials suggested.

Points to help determine your correct filing status include:

- * If you are not married on Dec. 31, 1994, you are single for tax purposes; this includes individuals whose divorce, annulment or legal separation became final on or before Dec. 31.

- * IRS considers you married for tax purposes if you were married and living together on Dec. 31, 1994; living in a common-law marriage in a state that recognizes the marriage; or married and living apart but not legally separated.

- * If you are married and decide to file married filing separately, each of you reports his or her own income, credits and deductions. Certain credits, such as earned income and child care, may not be claimed. In addition, IRS officials said, if one spouse itemizes or takes the standard deduction, the other spouse must do the same.

- * If you file a married filing jointly federal tax return, you are both responsible for the taxes due, plus any penalties and interest that may accrue. For example, if you filed jointly and your spouse leaves, you are responsible for paying the taxes, even if none of the income was yours.

- * You may file as head of household if you are single or married living apart from your spouse and providing a home for a child or elderly parent or other relative.

Specific information on filing status can be found in your federal tax package or in IRS Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax*.

In the case of a divorced or separated couple with children, only one individual can claim the exemption for the children, said IRS officials.

Usually the custodial parent is allowed to claim the exemption. IRS officials said the custodial parent generally is the one who had custody of the child for more than half of the year, whether or not he or she actually provided for more than half of the support.

However, the custodial parent may decide to let the noncustodial parent take the tax exemption. This can be done by completing IRS Form 8332, "Release of Claim to Exemption for Child of Divorced or Separated Parents," and providing it to the noncustodial parent, who then attaches it to his or her federal tax return.

IRS officials said several things to keep in mind about filing status and federal tax returns include:

- * Any time your filing status changes, you must fill out a new Form W-4, "Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate." This affects how much your employer withholds in federal taxes from your paycheck. For example, if your divorce becomes final during the year, IRS considers you single for filing purposes. You might need to have more taxes withheld during the year to cover the higher tax amount at the end of the year.

- * If a couple is divorced and both can meet the test for claiming an exemption for a dependent, and both provide equal support for the child, they may decide to use a multiple support agreement. Under this agreement, one of them will be permitted to take the exemption. This also works for children who all provide equal support for an elderly parent.

- * Child support is not included as income by the recipient or as a deduction by the payer.

- * Alimony is considered income to the receiver and a deduction by the payer.

IRS Publication 504, *Tax Information for Divorced or Separated Individuals*, provides more information on this subject. Topics include tax rules, alimony and dependency exemptions. For a copy of this free publication and others, plus IRS forms, call toll-free 1-800-829-3676 or write to:

IRS

Forms Distribution Center

P.O. Box 25866

Richmond, VA 23289.

(American Forces Information Service)



**APRIL 17
TAX DEADLINE**

Star Presidian

This Army Funded Newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Star Presidian* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Sixth U. S. Army, or the Presidio of San Francisco, Calif. It is published every other Friday using desktop publishing by the Presidio of San Francisco Public Affairs Office, Building 38, Room 113, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., 94129, phone (415) 561-2192. Circulation: 2,000.

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Public Affairs Officer.....James L. Hudgins

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Presidio Pulse

New office hours

Effective immediately, the ID Card Section's new hours will be 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Housing briefings

There is so much to do and so little time when you are preparing to move. Shipment of household goods, clearing the installation and, of course, clearing government quarters.

The first step to clear quarters is to schedule a pre-termination inspection. The housing office will no longer perform pre-termination inspections at your quarters. A pre-termination briefing for groups has been developed.

Beginning Feb. 7, pre-termination briefings will be conducted on Tuesdays at 8:45 a.m. and Thursdays at 1:45 p.m. in Building 204. The briefing will take approximately one hour. You do not need orders to attend. In fact, you should schedule an appointment for the briefing 45 to 60 days prior to your estimated departure date.

Once you have made arrangements with Transportation for the shipment of household goods, call or visit the Housing Office to schedule your final termination inspection. You should plan on approximately three days to clean your quarters. Whether you opt to clean the quarters yourself or hire a cleaning team, remember that you must be present at the final termination inspection.

Our goal is to inform you of your responsibilities to ensure quarters are properly cleared, and assist you in any way we can.

TRICARE News

There will be an open briefing conducted by "Tricare" in the Executive Conference Room at Letterman Army Medical Clinic, 1 p.m., Feb. 22. Point of contact is Eloise Callwood at (415) 561-3104.

Pasta dinner

A Pasta Night, honoring single and unaccompanied soldiers, takes place at 6 p.m. Sunday, in the Community Activity Center. Please bring your favorite pasta dish and a salad to share. Bread and beverages will be provided. Sign up at the Chapel.

Child care course

The demand for childcare health and safety courses has prompted the American Red Cross Bay Area to add several classes for professional child care givers. The Cali-

fornia Child Care Course was designed to fulfill the State's requirements as listed in AB243 for childcare providers. It includes training in accident prevention, first aid, infectious diseases, plus infant and child CPR. The course material was produced in cooperation with the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Two courses have been added to meet the growing demand. In order to become certified you must attend a full 15-hour course for a fee of \$60. Pre-registration is required. Courses are scheduled as follows:

March 11, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

March 18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Classes take place at the San Francisco County Main Office, 1550 Sutter Street.

The Red Cross offers preparedness and safety classes year-round. Call 1-800-520-5433, ext. 1, or stop by any of the ten Bay Area Red Cross offices to get more information or register for a course.

Spouse club funds

As the end of the fiscal year approaches,

the Presidio Spouses' Club's fiscal year also ends. Therefore, any organization requesting funds should send those requests as soon as possible to: Welfare Chairperson, 1433B Battery Caulfield Road, San Francisco, CA 94129.

Basketball program

Upcoming games: Feb. 13, 91st Div. vs. Hqs. Comdt, 6 p.m.; Feb. 13, LEC vs. ORE, 7 p.m.; Feb. 14, Hqs Comdt. vs. BEC-PSF, 11:30 a.m.; Feb. 14, DCSOPS vs. 91st Div., noon. All games will be played in the Post Gym, Building 63. Come on out and support your team to victory!

SATO hours

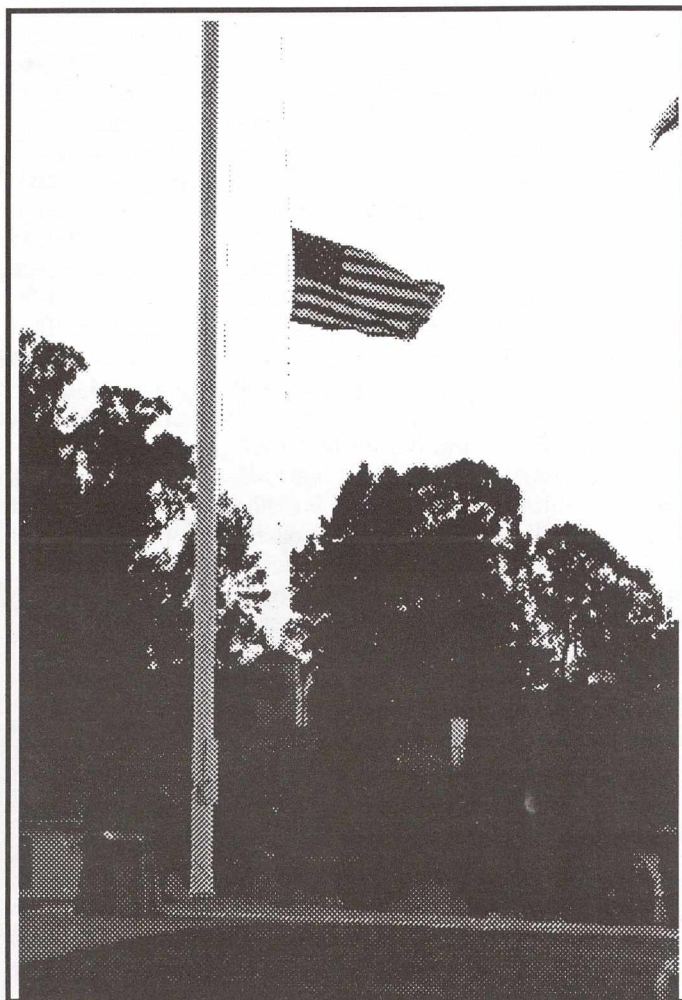
Attention SATO Travel leisure customers! Until further notice, our new hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. In case of emergency, you may contact the official SATO Travel office at Building 39, (415) 561-3001, or SATO Travel Leisure Office at Alameda Naval Air Station, (510) 522-4930.



Friends in high places

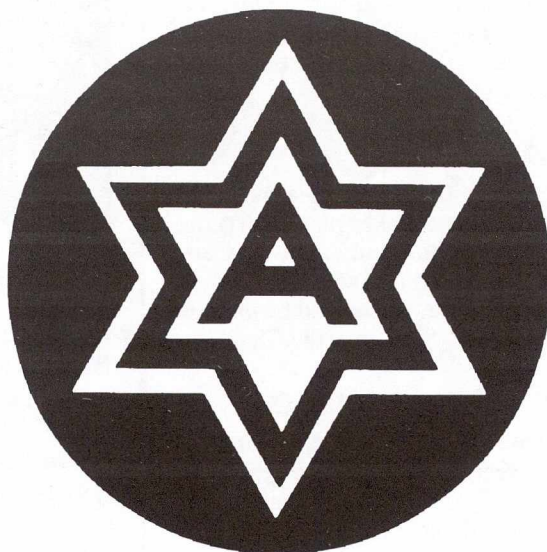
Gen. John Shalikashvili, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the keynote speaker at the 50th Anniversary reunion of the Battle of the Bulge veterans in St. Louis, Mo. Shalikashvili is shown here with Chief Warrant Officer 4 (U.S. Army, ret.) Fred T. Dong, founder of the local Golden Gate Chapter of Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. (Photo by George Wendt)

Sixth U.S. Army Headquarters celebrates 52 years' service to the nation

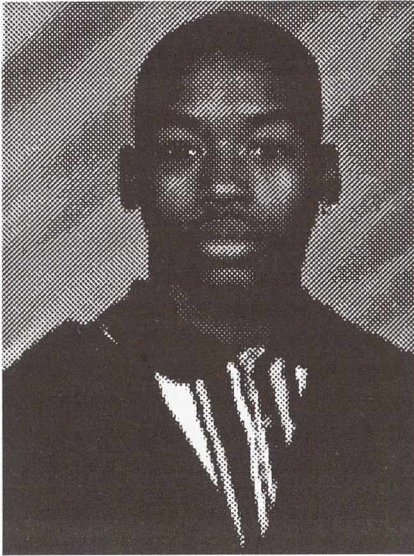


Photos by Sgt. Maj. Pat Maddox

Above, left: Henry Morris, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army for Northern California, helped Sixth U.S. Army Commanding General, Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., cut the birthday cake at the Presidio Community Club. Above, right: Members of the Law Enforcement Detachment lowered the flag during the retreat ceremony that marked the 52nd anniversary of Sixth U.S. Army Headquarters. Below, right: the Sixth U.S. Army patch.



Presidio Focus



Presidio youth wins at Galileo High School wrestling tourney

By Sgt. 1st Class Tom Morey
Special to the Star Presidian

Galileo High School sophomore Jerry Meriwether was one of the big winners in a recent wrestling tournament against McAteer High School. Meriwether is the son of DCSME's Sgt. 1st Class Bobbie Meriwether.

The younger Meriwether battled Brian Chambers, defending All-City

Champion, to a 0-0 tie after one two-minute period.

Chambers chose the bottom position to start the second period to try for an escape, but Meriwether drove him into the mat with a half nelson and pinned him 50 seconds into the period. Meriwether, who won two tournament titles this year, is 20-2 with 16 pins this year, with his only losses coming at the prestigious Santa Rosa tournament.



We'll miss you!

Staff Sgt. Pleasant L. Lindsey III (left) receives a Presidio map clock from the Public Affairs Office before his departure for duty in Korea. Lindsey was a military photojournalist on the *Star Presidian* staff. Presenting the clock is its maker, Dixie L. Porter, Sixth U.S. Army Community/Media Relations Officer. (Photo by Sharon E. Everett-Roles)

Is something special happening around your office, or in your family? The *Star Presidian* staff wants to know about it, so that we can publish the event in "Presidio Focus." Telephone Sharon E. Everett-Roles at (415) 561-2192, or drop the information off at the Public Affairs Office in Building 38.

African-American History Month

San Francisco celebrates arts, accomplishments of African Americans

From Ethiopian art to aerospace research, Caribbean-born rhythms to local oral histories, events around San Francisco in February hail the achievements and highlight the arts of African and African-American peoples.

HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL EVENTS

While all year round, the Center for African & African-American Art & Culture, and the African-American Historical & Cultural Society offer various programs, events, classes and services, these and other organizations are hosting some special events in honor of the national African-American History Month.

"Conversations with Elders" is an oral history program featuring locals who share their insights into the conditions of African-Americans in the Bay Area from the 1940's to the 1970's. The kick-off "Conversation" will feature a panel of the Society's first members, in honor of its 40th anniversary, 2 to 5 p.m., Feb. 18, at the Buriel Clay Theater, located on the first floor of the center for African & African-American Art & Culture, 762 Fulton Street. The event is free of charge. For information, call the African-American Historical & Cultural Society at (415) 292-6172.

The African-American History Month Poetry Festival will include music as well as poetry and is open to all poets. This free event takes place from 3 to 7 p.m., Feb. 25, at the Buriel Clay Theater.

Throughout February, a book and archival exhibit will display materials about the political, social and cultural

activities of African-Americans in San Francisco; displayed at the Main Library at the Civic Center, second floor. For more information, contact the African-American Historical & Cultural Society, (415) 292-6172. To receive a calendar of these events, call the Center for African & African-American Art & Culture at (415) 928-8546.

For a more experiential approach to history, East Bay Tours will be offering an African-American Historical Tour of the Bay Area, tracing the development of boogie and jazz, following the steps of the first African-American millionaire and visiting historic sites from the Black Panther Party as well as museums of art and culture. The three-hour tours take place Saturdays, tomorrow and Feb. 25, leaving at 1 p.m. from the African-American Historical & Cultural Society Gallery at Fort Mason. Call (415) 465-5791 for ticket information.

MUSIC, DANCE AND THEATER

"Celebration of the Black Dance and Music Experience," the Wajumbe Institution's annual program commemorating the journey from Africa to the Caribbean, South America and U.S., reflects the cultural continuum of African-based dance and music. Featured performers include Caribbean Rhythms, playing steel pan melodies from Trinidad and Tobago, and the Congolese music and dance ensemble, Fua Dia Congo. An African Bazaar of foods, crafts, books and jewelry will be open to the public before each performance, Feb. 25 at

4 p.m. and Feb. 26 at 3 p.m. at the Cowell Theater at Fort Mason. Call Wajumbe at (415) 563-3519 for ticket information.

The Lorraine Hansberry Theatre will present the fifth annual "Lift Every Voice" series, showcasing solo artists. This year's works include "WOMB/man WARS," by Judith Jackson, "A Fish with Frog's Eyes," by Wayne Corbitt, and a performance premier by Laurie Carlos. Shows run through Feb. 26, 620 Sutter Street at Fort Mason. Call (415) 474-8800 for tickets and specific show dates and times.

ART

"Botswana Live!" is the first comprehensive collection of artwork from Botswana to be exhibited outside that country. Works include everything from traditional pottery and basketry to toys, modern sculpture, and contemporary painting. At the San Francisco Craft & Folk Museum, Landmark Building A, Fort Mason, through March 12. Call (415) 775-0990 for information.

Sculpture and paintings by Haitian-born artist Edouard Duval-Carrie and papier-mache by Ethiopian-born artist Mickael Bethe-Selassie will be on exhibit at Bomani Gallery, 251 Post Street, through March 28. Call (415) 296-8677.

Bay Area painter Raymond Saunders will have an exclusive exhibit entitled "Black Paintings, Black Garden" at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum in Golden Gate Park, Feb. 22 through April 30. Call (415) 863-3330 for information.

(San Francisco Convention & Visitors' Bureau)

Involuntary allotments now authorized to pay soldiers' private creditors

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Barrett
American Forces Information Service

Service members with delinquent bills may find another entry on their pay voucher -- an involuntary allotment to pay private creditors.

Military personnel who owe debts, whether to private individuals or businesses, may be subject to involuntary debt collection. This comes after Congress mandated change in DoD regulations.

"We're not talking about every allegation of debt," said Navy Capt. Gerald Kirkpatrick. "We're talking about indebtedness adjudicated in civilian court when the court determines the service member owes money."

Kirkpatrick, DoD's legal policy director, said Congress ordered these changes along with Hatch Act amendments passed last fall. Before the changes, effective Jan. 1, only those seeking child or spouse support could get involuntary allotments.

To collect debts, Kirkpatrick said, creditors must gain a court judgment against the service member before requesting the allotment. If the court rules against the service member, creditors can file with the Defense Finance and Accounting Service to request

payment.

However, before the deduction starts, the application must go through the service member's commander to the member for response. If it's found that the request is legitimate, involuntary payments from the service member begin.

"However, it (the allotment) is not an automatic process," said Kirkpatrick. "The service member has a meaningful opportunity to respond to it (the application for an involuntary allotment) and to raise objections."

Kirkpatrick said ensuring procedural safeguards for service members is important to DoD. He said the new regulations include provisions for extensions of response time. This is critical when service members deploy, receive overseas assignments or have a classified duty where they can't respond to the application for involuntary allotment.

The regulations also protect service members from having too much taken from their "take home" pay. Only 25 percent of service members' pay, not including quarters and subsistence allowance, is subject to involuntary allotment.

"It's a matter of balance," said Kirkpatrick. "On the one hand the idea is to repay the debt in a reasonable amount of time. But on the

other (it's) to make sure the service members have enough money left in their pay to meet the necessities of life."

Kirkpatrick added there may be more than one judgment creditor paid at a time, provided the total payments do not exceed 25 percent of take home pay.

In announcing the change Kirkpatrick said DoD is not trying to send a message to its forces, but rather implementing a law Congress passed. He said most service members have a very good record of paying their bills on time and in full.

However, he said, there were perceptions that federal civil service workers and service members receive shielding from mandated debt collections. "That has not been the case for many workers outside the federal sector," said Kirkpatrick, "and the law corrected that imbalance."

To help prevent indebtedness and involuntary allotments, Kirkpatrick advises service members to keep accurate financial records and seek help from their unit financial counselors or legal assistance offices.

"Otherwise, if we as service members don't pay our just debts voluntarily, under this new law we may find the money comes out of our pay without our consent," he said.



(San Francisco Convention & Visitors Bureau photo by Mark Snyder)

Gong hay fat choy!

A sacred protector of the Chinese people, the fire-breathing Gum Lung is often mistaken for a gruesome monster of medieval imagination. Three 22-man teams serve as "dragon feet" tomorrow night at 6 p.m. as the Golden Dragon winds its way through Chinatown during the San Francisco Chronicle Chinese New Year Parade, celebrating the Year of the Boar (lunar year 4693).

The back page

Transition, from page 1

When that site has been established, the information will be published in the STAR PRESIDIAN.

Magdalena Campos represented the Private Industry Council of San Francisco, or PIC. PIC is the local organization that coordinates federally funded job training programs in San Francisco. PIC has funding available, in the form of grants, to help you update skills or learn a new trade if you are RIF'd.

Campos said that RIF'd workers need to contact her at (415) 621-6853 to set up a counseling appointment. She will guide you through the application process and, should you decide to make use of PIC's programs, will set up the training contract with the school.

Campos recommended that interested

Presidians apply for the grants fairly soon, as the funding will be gone after April 1995; the current grant is the only money available.

PIC funds will pay for an occupational certificate or diploma, not a college degree, Campos continued. She said that the majority of training and 80 to 90 percent of placements are in computer-related fields.

The final speaker was Richard Anderson, from the Office of Personnel Management. Anderson talked about the Interagency Placement Program, which is a federal program similar to DoD's PPP.

The biggest difference between PPP and IPP is that the latter is not a mandatory program, Anderson explained. Federal agencies need only to consider IPP registrants before hiring non-federal employees. In

other words, if an agency wants to hire from within, it need not consult the IPP register at all.

Should you decide to register in IPP, go through your personnel office, Anderson stated. The staffing specialist will help you through the paperwork, in which you register for positions and geographic availability in much the same way you do for IPP. However, in IPP you may register for positions for which you are only minimally qualified. PPP registration requires you to be fully qualified for the positions.

Overall, a great deal of information and wide variety of options are available to Sixth Army's civilians. One-to-one counseling with a staffing specialist will help you make the best decision for your particular situation.

Love notes

Valentine's Day greetings to family, friends

Anna: Be my valentine. Love, **Blake.**

Clint: With every beat of my heart, every sunrise, every day, I am so glad that we found each other. I love you, darling! **Sharon.**

Glenda: There will always be a place in our hearts for the one we love. **Jim, Banjo and Bishop.**

Catherine Mallouh, M.D., Veterans Affairs Medical Center, SF: Thanks for being there for me, for giving of yourself, for standing by me through trying times, for helping me keep things in perspective, for being tough with me when I need it, for being gentle when I need encouragement, for being understanding, for being sensitive and caring, for being the best at what you do. **A patient.**

Mary: Thanks for being there when situations sometimes made me feel that I was alone and for helping me see the real issues when the clouds of vanity sometimes obscured the truth. Love you, buckets. **Von.**

Lisa (EC): Thanks, hon, for being the most wonderful, understanding and supportive wife throughout our somewhat unstable tour at PSF. We'll continue to hold our chins high, remain strong, keep smiling, and enjoy our limited days together at PSF in hopes for a less frustrating future for our

family. Again, I thank you with all my heart for always being there for me, and being the best valentine I could ever wish for. **MEH.**

To my very special, adorable, loving spouse and life-long friend, **Missy:** We were high school sweethearts, and have now spent the last 24-plus happily married years together. Actually, on Aug. 5, it will be our 25th (silver) anniversary. Now that both of our children are out of the house and kind of on their own, it is time for us to share with each other more, if possible, than we ever have. There are but the two of us to share the rest of our lives with, I'm sure, occasional visits from the kids. Maybe now there will be time to take those vacations together for which there never were time or funds. Oh, it's not the fault of the children, nor were they ever a real problem. It was always something or other, always trying to give them what we never had, and you know that we succeeded. The kids always came first and foremost, no matter what. Now, I think it is time for us to come first. I promise, my love, that the next 25 years will be as interesting, fun and loving, it not more so than the last 25 years. There is a song with the words that say it best: "I love you more today than I did yesterday, but less than I will tomorrow." I know I don't need to ask,

for you have always been my valentine as I will always be yours. I do want to wish you a happy Valentine's Day forever more. **Pet Tiger.**

WMP: Happy anniversary, girl friend. Please be my valentine for 25 more. Three !!! **TLP.**

Karen, my wife. You are the most wonderful wife, friend and mother to our two children. You will always be my valentine! You gave me the greatest gift when you gave birth to our little Kayshia on Valentine's Day five years ago. I will always love you. **Tony.**

Lance, my son. You are a wonderful, bright son. Have a happy Valentine's Day. I love you, **Dad.**

Kayshia, our little Valentine, as you were given to us on Feb. 14, 1990. You are our big girl, and I love you very much. **Dad.**

To all the girls in my life on this special day, **Marilyn, Rya, Alina and Holly.** With love, **Dad.**

Bob: Honey, thank you for being patient with my "pack-rat" ways, drill days, for our two wonderful children, and always being there when I need you. I love you. **Dixie.**

To **Betty,** a great typist and great friend. **Sgt. Maj. Whichard.**

Pookie: All my love. **J.J.**

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Feb. 24, 1995



In the swim of things

Members of the Presidio Youth Swim Team, shown here in their team sweatshirts, met up with the Jewish Community Center team for a match recently. For details of the event and a list of ribbon winners, see page 7. (Photo by Maj. Mike Koplin)

Self Development Testing cancelled

Compiled by Master Sgt. Donald Banks
Special to the Star Presidian

In a shocking announcement, the Pentagon released that Gen. Gordon Sullivan, Army Chief of Staff, approved elimination of the Self Development Test as of Thursday, Feb 2.

An *Army Times* headline described the SDT as a weak training tool. However, according to the message major commands' Command Sergeants Major recommended shelving the SDT because it was merely a "redundant program paralleling NCOES and didn't help provide battle focus."

Command Sgt. Major Otto M. Copeland, command sergeant major, 6th U.S. Army, said, "This (elimination of SDT) was inevitable. Noncommissioned Officer Education System (NCOES) core courses have advanced so well that site testing of leadership, training and MOS skills became unnecessary.

The source document emphasized that lessons learned from SDT will remain a part of NCOES, as well as NCO Development Programs at unit levels and will provide

commanders flexibility in tailoring unit training to fit their needs.

Soldiers who tested prior to the elimination date will receive their Individual Soldier's Report (ISR). No other reports will be generated or distributed.

Training Standards Officers (TSO) will maintain functional support to complete closeout processing of SDT and to serve as interface for Common Task Testing (CTT). Existing SDT materials will be made available by TSOs to requesting units for use in training programs until current stocks are depleted.

Ongoing SDT inquiries filed by soldiers who took the test earlier will continue until compromise cases have been resolved.

"I'm really unsure how I view the termination. However, it was the first mechanism which required NCOs to read and understand training doctrine (Field Manuals 25-100 and 25-101).

"Personally, I think NCOs' Chain of Command and NCO Support Channel should highly encourage the continued reading of training doctrine," said Copeland, who is a 32-year veteran.

Other ramifications associated with the test elimination are that commanders and local promotion boards will no longer use SDT results to assist in determining promotion points for either duty performance or for board interviews and evaluation.

Centralized promotion and school selection boards will stop using SDT results too. Accordingly, the Master Sergeant Promotion Selection Board, which convened Jan. 31, was informed to disregard soldier's SDT scores on soldiers' files.

Also affected is the NCO-ER. It states that raters will no longer consider "SDT results when completing Part IV of the NCO-ER, nor can SDT results be used on the NCO-ER to support bullet comments.

The SDT was an annual requirement for virtually all sergeants, staff sergeants and sergeants first class since 1993. It replaced the former Military Occupational Skills (MOS) test in 1991. The first two years of the test were for familiarization, and those 1992 and 1993 results couldn't be used as tangible measurements of an NCO's knowledge in relationship to his job and leadership and training issues.

Tax Corner

Right tax form can save you time, money

Choosing the correct federal income tax form when filing may save you time and money, said Internal Revenue Service officials.

For example, if you don't itemize deductions and your taxable income is less than \$50,000, you may be able to file one of the shorter tax forms, said IRS officials. Forms 1040EZ and 1040A, "U.S. Individual Income Tax Return," are shorter than Form 1040, offer less opportunity for errors and are easier for IRS to process, explained officials.

On the other hand, you may be able to save money by itemizing your deductions on the longer Form 1040.

You may receive the same type of form from IRS that you filed last year, for example, the 1040EZ. However, IRS officials cautioned, check your tax situation before filing. You may no longer meet the specific requirements for the previous form and must use one of the others.

Just a few of the many things that may change the type of Form 1040 you file include child care expenses, marriage or divorce, stock dividends, interest income and pay raises. Also keep in mind, said IRS officials, if you request a filing extension, you may not use Form 1040EZ.

To file Form 1040EZ, you must meet all of the following requirements:

- * Filing status is single or married filing jointly;
- * Taxable income is less than \$50,000;
- * If married and either you or your spouse had more than one job, total wages don't exceed \$60,600;
- * Do not claim an exemption for dependents;
- * Do not claim an additional deduction for age or blindness;
- * Do not itemize deductions or claim any

adjustments, such as an individual retirement account deduction, to your income;

* Do not claim any tax credits other than earned income credit;

* Do not owe any special taxes, such as Social Security on unreported tips;

* Income is only from wages, salaries, tips and interest;

* Interest income does not exceed \$400; and

* Did not receive any advance earned income tax credit payments.

The following requirements must be met to file Form 1040A:

* Taxable income is less than \$50,000;

* Taxable income is from wages, salaries, tips, interest, dividends, IRA distributions, pensions and annuities, taxable portion of Social Security benefits, unemployment compensation and certain scholarships and fellowships;

* Do not itemize deductions;

* Only deduction is for the allowable part of an IRA contribution;

* Owe no special taxes; and

* May claim deduction for age or blindness; credit for child and dependent care expenses; or earned income credit.

Use the long form 1040 for any situation not covered by Form 1040EZ or 1040A, said IRS officials. These include:

* Taxable income is more than \$50,000;

* When you itemize deductions;

* You sold a house;

* When you claim any credits other than earned income credit, child and dependent care expenses or credit for the elderly;

* You owe taxes other than regular income tax;

* If you claim adjustments to gross income, like alimony; and

* You had income from sources other than wages, tips, interest, dividends, etc.,

such as from barter income or sale of property.

Check your tax package to determine which form you should use. Copies of the forms are available through the installation tax offices, local libraries, IRS offices and some U.S. post offices. In addition, IRS Publication 910, *Guide to Free Tax Services* lists all the free tax forms and publications available.

IRS Publication 17, *Your Federal Income Tax*, explains the three forms. For a free copy of this publication and others, call toll-free 1-800-829-3676 or write to:

IRS

Forms Distribution Center

P.O. Box 25866

Richmond, VA 23289.

(American Forces Information Service)



APRIL 17 TAX DEADLINE

Star Presidian

This Army Funded Newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Star Presidian* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Sixth U. S. Army, or the Presidio of San Francisco, Calif. It is published every other Friday using desktop publishing by the Presidio of San Francisco Public Affairs Office, Building 38, Room 113, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., 94129, phone (415) 561-2192. Circulation: 2,000.

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Presidio Pulse

Spouse club funds

As the end of the fiscal year approaches, the Presidio Spouses' Club's fiscal year also ends. Therefore, any organization requesting funds should send those requests as soon as possible to: Welfare Chairperson, 1433B Battery Caulfield Road, San Francisco, CA 94129.

Columbia College

Soldiers and family members planning to attend Columbia College during the March 20 - May 13 term may register at the Education Center, Building 682, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday. Presidians who wish to register after that date will have to do so at Treasure Island, where all classes will meet.

Soldiers who want to apply for tuition assistance must make an appointment by calling (415) 561-3683; no walk-ins can be accommodated during registration day.

Poetry competition

Attention, poets! The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$24,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to more than 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is March 31. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and any style, to the National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-1923, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by March 31. A new contest opens April 1.

The National Library of Poetry, founded in 1982, is the largest poetry organization in the world.

(Editor's Note: In last year's poetry competition, Presidian Sharon E. Everett-Roles won the Editor's Choice Award for her piece, "Lancelot's Lament.")

Tax assistance

Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Sixth U.S. Army, provides tax assistance to soldiers, family members and military retirees by appointment, (415) 561-2169. Location is the third floor of Building 39. Most Federal forms and some state forms are also

available for pick-up. Persons unable to climb stairs can obtain assistance at Letterman Clinic, every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (except during the lunch hour); no appointment is necessary.

Power outage

A power outage is required to permit a National Park Service contractor to perform repair and maintenance on electrical equipment. The schedule is as follows:

Monday: Building 34 will have no electricity for one hour, 8 to 9 a.m. Building 36 will have no electricity for one hour, from 10 to 11 a.m.

March 3: Building 38 will have no electricity for two hours, from 2 to 4 p.m.

History symposium

"Viewing America's History Through the Presidio," a symposium sponsored by the Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, takes place at 1 p.m., March 4, at the Presidio Community Club. The symposium will enrich understanding of the Presidio's importance for historical education. Participants will also receive the latest outlook for Park Service plans, as new challenges face the Presidio as a park in 1995. The program includes an introduction by F. Whitney Hall, President of the Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association; "The Defenses of San Francisco Bay as Reflections of American Foreign Policy," presented by Milton "Bud" Halsey, Jr., Past Executive Director of the Fort Point and Presidio Historical Association, published historian, and Director of the Council on America's Military Posts; "A Survey of America's Policies and Attitudes toward Asia and the Pacific," by Ulde Kruze, Professor, University of San Francisco, Center for Pacific Rim Studies; "The Presidio, the Spanish-American War and America's Commitments in the Pacific," by William Strobridge, Historian, Wells Fargo, and author, and; "The National Park Service: Interpreting History" by Robert Chandler, General Manager, Presidio of San Francisco, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, National Park Service.

The symposium will close by 4 p.m.

Time will be allowed for questions and discussion during a refreshment break and closing session. For the first time, members are asked to pay a \$5 registration fee to offset costs for using the Community Club. Non-member's fee is \$10. Registration fees are waived for active duty members of the Armed forces, employees of the National

Park Service, and students with school I.D.s. For information, call (415) 921-8193.

Pell Grant info

Formerly called the Basic Grant Program, the Federal Pell Grant program makes funds available to eligible students attending participating colleges, community/junior colleges, vocational schools, technical institutions, hospital schools of nursing, and other participating postsecondary institutions. To apply for the grant, an applicant must demonstrate need and be an undergraduate student enrolled on at least a half-time basis. The maximum award is \$2,300. To apply for a Pell Grant, a student must complete the Federal form called "Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (available at the Education Center, Building 682). This form has no processing fee. Some colleges may require an additional need analysis form to award their own institutional aid. In some cases, to be considered for non-federal aid such as institutional and/or state aid, you may have to fill out an additional application and pay a fee to have it processed. Schools have supplies of these applications. Check with your college to see if they require additional forms.

And the winner is . . .

Thanks to Delta Airlines, four members of the Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army family received complimentary tickets to the famous AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am Golf Tournament, held Feb. 3-5. This tournament is known not only for the outstanding professional golfers and wonderful golfing, but also for the numerous celebrities who attend as spectators each year.

The Presidio personnel were selected by drawing. The lucky winners were Maj. Alexander Gardner (Staff Medical Advisors), Lt. Ryan Garcia (Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations), William Long (Inspector General), and Spc. Greg Kluck (Provost Marshal's Office).



Environmental cleanup on track

By **Rena C. Davies**
Special to the Star Presidian

Although the Presidio of San Francisco is now a National Park, the Army is continuing its stewardship of the former Army post by ensuring its environmental cleanup. The disestablishment of Sixth U.S. Army does not affect the Army's commitment or its goal to complete its remedial cleanup efforts at the Presidio within three years, according to David Wilkins, Presidio Base Environmental Coordinator's Office.

"Monitoring of the cleanup, particularly of the groundwater, will continue out to the year 2000," Wilkins added.

When the Presidio was placed on the 1989 Base Closure List, a series of environmental investigations and actions became necessary. The Enhanced Preliminary Assessment was the first step in the Army's environmental restoration program. The assessment, based primarily on record searches, determined that no major industrial activities occurred on post and the Presidio did not present an imminent or substantial threat to human health or the environment. The Presidio is a relatively clean post compared to other military installations. The environmental conditions are similar to those associated with light industrial activities such as vehicle maintenance, painting, carpentry and metalworking. Some areas, however, required additional investigation. Those areas included landfills, vehicle main-

tenance areas, fuel distribution points and pesticide/transformer storage areas.

The next step is the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS). The RI determines the nature and extent of contamination through analysis of soil, sediment and water supplies. The primary causes of environmental concern are soil and groundwater contamination and Underground Storage Tanks. The FS explains cleanup alternatives and discusses the issues and risks involved, as well as the potential environmental impact of each cleanup alternative.

At the Presidio, two RI/FS's were conducted. The studies for the main installation should be completed by May 1995. The other RI/FS was for the former Public Health Service property. (see box).

After the RI/FS is complete, a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) is written and available for public review and comment. The RAP is the Army's proposed cleanup plan and identifies the cleanup alternatives and the Army's preferred alternative for cleaning up the site. The preferred alternative considers both protection of human health and the environment and cost effectiveness. Before the Army makes a final decision, it provides ample opportunity for public input. The RAP and associated documents are made available for review, and a 30-day comment period is held. During this time, the Army accepts written comments and provides a meeting to answer questions and

receive verbal comments about the proposed plan.

After considering all regulatory and public comments, the Army issues its final cleanup plan in the form of a Record of Decision. In some cases, however, cleanup was initiated at certain sites on the Presidio considered a high priority by the Army, with the concurrence of federal and state regulators. Two areas, buildings 937 and 637, will be highlighted in the next edition of the *Star Presidian*.

A Record of Decision on the cleanup of the former Public Health Service Hospital (PHSH) property should be signed by the Department of the Army in March 1995.

A separate RI/FS was conducted for the PHSH because the land was not included in the statute which transferred the Presidio to the National Park Service. Based on the RI/FS, a draft RAP was issued, followed by a public comment period and meeting in August 1994. After reviewing comments from the National Park Service and the public, the Army revised and reissued the RAP, changing its recommendation on the cleanup of Landfill 8 to accommodate the National Park Service's plan to reintroduce native plants at the site. The new plan calls for long-term monitoring instead of capping the landfill. This will prevent possible damage to the native plants. A public comment period and meeting on the revised draft RAP was held Nov.-Dec. 1994.

Bomb threat closes PX

By **Maj. Wanda A. Arceneaux**
Special to the Star Presidian

If you happened to be shopping at the main post exchange on Sunday shortly after noon, you probably wondered why everyone in the building was suddenly told to leave.

According to the police report, an exchange employee received a telephone call at 12:25 p.m. from an unknown person who claimed there was a bomb in the building and it was set to detonate in 45 minutes. This is what prompted the manager to evacuate the premises. About 10 minutes later, Military Police and Park Police arrived on scene and evacuated the parking lot and commissary as a precaution. They then closed Mason Street to traffic for several hours while the bomb threat was investigated.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal Canine Unit from Alameda was called in, and they conducted two searches of the exchange building using bomb detecting dogs. They were unable to find any explosive devices and declared the building safe at about 3 p.m., when the PX manager decided to reopen the store and Mason Street was again opened to traffic.



Presidio is home to rare botanical find

By Jim Hudgins

Special to the Star Presidian

What comes to mind when you hear the words "arctostaphylos hookeri ravenii"?

Is it a new disease discovered in laboratory rats caused by excessive cheap cigar smoke? Or is this the name of one of the bit players who appeared in *Zorba the Green*? An Aztec liberation group? You're sure that ravenii's a small town on the Italian Riviera?

Stumped? I'll give you one more clue. What is being referred to is a "tetraploid."

Give up? Well, the answer is none of the above. *Arctostaphylos hookeri ravenii* is the botanical name for a low-growing evergreen shrub commonly called the "Presidio Manzanita." Its claim to fame is that it is one of the rarest plants, not only in California, but in the entire world. It is called the Presidio Manzanita because there is no other known location where this particular type of manzanita grows except for a small patch here on our post.

The exact location of this 15-foot-wide section of growth is a well-kept secret to

protect the plant from potential "plantnappers." I can tell you that it is located in an open area at a point approximately 400 feet above sea level, with a view of the ocean.

Rare plant expert Alice Howard, who is cultivating some Presidio Manzanita cuttings at University of California, Berkeley, checks on the plant's condition periodically and recently stated "... It is expanding and very healthy. In fact, this is the time of the year when it is in bloom."

Expecting something glamorous and exotic, this reporter followed the written directions provided by Howard, promising to swallow the paper it was written on to keep it from falling into the wrong hands.

What I found was a little disappointing. The "bloom" was in the form of tiny, whitish berries hanging from a non-descript patch of shrubbery which somehow reminded me of mistletoe.

I later found out that these berries were the reason for the early Spanish settlers naming this plant "manzanita," or "little apples." The Indians who once lived in this

area boiled manzanita leaves to make a medicinal tea to treat venereal disease. There are about 50 varieties of the plant, but the Presidio variety has been dying out due to commercial development over the years.

Our own manzanita was discovered by Botanist Peter Raven in 1952, hence the "ravenii" in its name, and was formally listed as an endangered species by the Federal Government in 1978. It was then that interest developed in this little plant named after an army installation. An interview with Howard led to an article in *Time Magazine*. Even so, the exact location has been kept secret, known only to a few closed-mouthed people here on post.

So, if you are hiking on post and think you've discovered where the Presidio Manzanita is growing, please don't tell anyone. Besides, there's another plant on the endangered species list called the "Clarkia" which is every bit as rare as the Presidio Manzanita and also grows somewhere here on the Presidio. Just goes to show you how common rare plants can be.

(Reprinted from the Feb. 22, 1980, *Star Presidian*)

Veterans plates approved by DMV

Objective reached. That is the latest word from the California Department of Veterans Affairs regarding sales of the new red, white and blue veterans license plates.

Making it official, State Director of Veterans Affairs Jay Vargas recently presented a check for \$150,000 to Frank Zolin, director of the Department of Motor Vehicles. The money paves the way for the first 5,000 vet plates which should begin appearing on trucks, trailers and cars in California soon.

"It's going to be a beautiful plate. We're looking forward to this thing to be distributed, hopefully, in early March," said Vargas, a Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient.

"To all the veterans in the state of California, let's show your pride that you served your country and defended freedom," he added.

According to Vargas, veterans purchasing and displaying the plates will be a tremendous asset in supporting county veterans service offices (CVSOs) statewide. Proceeds from the sale of the vet plates maintain or expand CVSOs.

Currently operating in 56 of California's 58 counties, CVSOs help veterans and their families apply for veterans benefits, particularly those administered by the federal government.

"So, if you don't have a plate, buy one,"

said the retired Marine colonel.

California's 3 million veterans, as well as their friends and loved ones, may purchase a set of the patriotic plates at any DMV office. The annual cost is \$30.

As a sign of support for those who served in the military, vehicle owners participating in the program may display a special sticker on their plates.

The sticker may be selected from among

100 different emblems and logos representing many military associations, a variety of veterans organizations and every branch of the uniformed services.

To purchase a set of plates, contact the DMV. Local offices are listed in the white pages of the telephone directory under state government offices.

(California Department of Veterans Affairs)



Volleyball tournament begins

By Bobble H. Gascon

Sports Director, Presidio Sub-Installation
Special to the Star Presidian

The Presidio Sub-Installation Intramural Volleyball League begins play April 3.

Soldiers, Department of Army civilians, and family members assigned or attached to the Presidio of San Francisco are eligible to participate. Other organizations/activities may participate upon written application to the Sports Director, Presidio Sub-Installation. Organizations or activities not supported by the Presidio Sub-Installation will be required to pay an entry fee of \$100 to pay for awards and officials. Entry fee must be paid to the Sub-Installation Morale Welfare Support Fund by April 3.

Full-time Department of Army civilians and non-appropriated fund employees and family members of the Presidio Sub-Installation military community are authorized to participate with military personnel. Team managers will be required to have their team roster in the Sports Office prior to their first game. Team rosters will be limited to 15 members, including players, coaches and manager. Team rosters submitted will then be frozen. Individuals will not be allowed to transfer to another team during the

season or play-offs.

Teams wishing to enter the league after it has started will only be admitted if another team drops out, in which case the new team will pick up the schedule at the current date. All remaining games will be recorded as forfeitures and a team replacing a team which has dropped will not be eligible for the championship play-offs. Games will be for recreation purposes only.

A team may postpone a scheduled game only when due to military necessity. The Sports Branch must be notified before 9 a.m. on the day of the game so officials and opposing team can be notified. The Sports Branch will reschedule postponed games only when they have a bearing on the final standing of the league.

The 1995 U.S. Volleyball Association rules will apply as modified for intramural play by the Sports Branch.

A clinic for coaches, managers and players will be conducted at Post Gym 1 (Building 63), at 1 p.m. March 29. Units entering a team must have a team representative at this meeting.

Unsportsmanlike conduct will not be tolerated in any league, tournament or programs conducted by the Sports Branch. The

use of abusive or foul language, assaulting the official, physically or verbally, by an individual or team will result in removal from the game and/or forfeiture of that contest. A player ejected from a game will be ineligible to participate in the next two scheduled games of that team. More serious offenses or a second offense will not only result in suspension of the individual or team, but recommendations will be forwarded to unit commanders for disciplinary action to be taken.

Jerseys will be issued to the team manager or coach prior to the game and must be returned immediately after the game. Failure to return equipment in its entirety will result in loss of usage for future games and teams will be responsible to provide their own uniforms.

Officials will be contracted by the Fort Lewis NAF Services Division, Contracting Division.

The league champion and runner-up teams will receive team trophies only. Post champion and runner-up teams will receive team trophies and 15 individual awards.

Units and activities wishing to enter a team are requested to do so through the Sports Branch by March 29.

PRESIDIO FOCUS



Sharon E. Everett-Roles

Former San Francisco Mayor Joseph Alioto spoke to guests at the "Region With Reach" conference, sponsored by San Francisco State University's College of Business, at the Presidio Community Club Feb. 9.



Master Sgt. Donald L. Banks

Presidio and local San Francisco residents united forces to help a neighborhood group clean and beautify parks, sidewalks and streets in the North Beach area. Each of the above volunteers (l-r) Evan Huston, Stephan Keller, Jessica Banks, Cherne Lodrina and Monica Walsh are members of Youth Quest, Friends of Urban Forest. Maj. Micheal Walsh (rear) assisted with clean-up and recycling effort.

Park Service seeks golf course concessioner

The National Park Service announced today that it will begin accepting offers for the concession operation of the historic Presidio of San Francisco golf course near the Golden Gate Bridge. A prospectus document detailing the terms and conditions is being issued within two weeks, with a planned deadline of late April for submitting offers. The new concessioner selected by the Park Service will begin its operations on or before Oct. 1.

The concession contract will be for a 10-year term. The new concessioner will be required to invest in major new capital improvements, including a brand new clubhouse for public use and a new irrigation system to allow seven-day operation of the course. The concessioner will pay a percentage of gross revenues to the Park Service, with the actual amount based upon the best offer received. The Park Service seeks to continue and improve upon the high quality of play at the course, while opening the course to full public play and generating revenues.

This concession offering represents another step in the Park Service's plans for reuse of Presidio facilities now in use by the Sixth U.S. Army. The entire Presidio, an historic 1,480-acre former Army base lying between the Golden Gate Bridge and San Francisco, was transferred to the Park Service on Oct. 1, 1994. Certain housing and administrative and support facilities, including the Presidio golf course, were per-

mitted to the Sixth Army for continued operation per an agreement worked out between the Departments of Army and Interior.

With the recently announced inactivation of the sixth Army scheduled for Sept. 30, the Park Service is accelerating its leasing plans. Commented Presidio General Manager Bob Chandler, "Selecting a new concessioner for the golf course is an important step in meeting the challenge created by the Sixth Army's departure. With this offering, we now have a number of major leasing actions underway, with more coming out in the next several months." Other leasing opportunities are currently available for historic buildings at the Presidio's Main Post and a concession operation for the Presidio Bowling Alley. Agreements have already been reached with a number of tenants, and others are under negotiation.

The Presidio golf course is an 18-hole course with a driving range, covering 6,143 yards over rolling hills, with views of San Francisco and the ocean. Par is 72 from the blue tees. Established in 1895, it is the second-oldest golf course in California and is bordered by the historic 300-acre Presidio forest. Historically the course has been closed to the public, although the Army recently set aside 20 percent of tee times for public play. Under Park Service operation, the golf course will be opened to public play. With seven-day operation, the current play of 60,000 rounds per year is expected to increase to approximately 68,000 rounds.

Continuation of the historic role of golf at the Presidio is an important objective of the Park Service. Increased opportunities for those who often have limited access to golfing, such as inner-city youth and disabled persons, are sought by the Park Service. The golf course is an important part of the Park Service's plan for creating a park for the 21st century at the Presidio. In addition to protecting open space and historic buildings for public enjoyment, the Park Service is creating a community of programs around environmental, cultural, scientific, and community themes. These programs will occupy 3 million square feet of historic military buildings and more than 600 housing units. Within 10 years, more than 8 million park visitors per year are expected.

The concession offering for the golf course is being conducted by the National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Concession Program Management, under the Park Service's concession contracting authority. A free copy of the golf course prospectus, which includes the application, can be obtained by writing to: National Park Service, Western Regional Office, Division of Concession Program Management, 600 Harrison Street, Suite 600, San Francisco, CA 94107-1372. Additional information about the golf course or leasing opportunities in other Presidio buildings can be obtained by calling the Presidio Project Office at (415) 556-3111.

(Golden Gate National Recreation Area)

Presidio swimmers meet their match

By Maj. Mike Koplin
Special to the Star Presidian

The Presidio Youth Swim Team matched up against the Jewish Community Center (JCC) team in a meet Feb. 18. Always an awesome opponent, JCC proved their competitive edge once again over the Presidio swimmers.

About 50 swimmers participated in the meet that matched swimmers by age categories in the freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly individual and relay events.

In 56 events the Presidio swimmers won only three blue ribbons. Sabrina Campbell took first place in the 13-15 age group girls' individual backstroke. Rebekah Koplin won first place in the 9-10 girls' butterfly, and Kristi Koplin won the blue ribbon in the 7-8-year-old girls' breaststroke.

In all, Presidio swimmers won 61 second-

place, 35 third place, 11 fourth-place, six fifth-place and six sixth-place ribbons. Listed below are the awards won by each swimmer.

13 AND OLDER SWIMMERS

Jason Tingstrom: eight 2nd place, one 3rd.

Slim Merila: two 2nd, two 3rd.

Abby Jensen: four 2nd, one 3rd, one 6th.

Brandon Koplin: four 2nd, one 4th, one 5th.

Nathan McGarrity: one 2nd, two 3rd, one 4th.

Sabrina Campbell: one 1st, one 2nd, two 3rd, one 4th, one 6th.

Natalie Warcier: one 2nd, three 3rd, one 5th.

11-12 YEAR OLDS

Jessica Marek: six 2nd, two 3rd.

Jessica Banks: three 2nd, one 3rd, one 5th.

Grant Davis: one 2nd, five 3rd.

Sarah Uldricks: four 2nd, one 3rd, one 4th.

Julia Dakin: four 2nd, one 4th, two 6th.

Joy Hazelwood: three 3rd, one 6th.

Cory Jensen: two 3rd, two 4th.

Candice Shino: two 3rd.

Monica Walsh: one 3rd, one 5th.

Cynthia Pace: three 3rd.

9-10 YEAR OLDS

Jenna Sanders: four 2nd, one 5th.

Jeremy Beecher: five 2nd, one 3rd, one 4th.

Veronia Marek: three 2nd, one 4th, one 6th.

Rebekah Koplin: one 1st, six 2nd, one 4th.

Paul Dixon: two 2nd, one 3rd, one 4th.

7-8 YEAR OLDS

Kristi Koplin: one 1st, two 2nd.

Jennifer Shino: two 3rd, one 5th.

The back page

TRICARE options save soldiers' money

With the Defense Department's recent announcement of the costs to patients of its new HMO-type TRICARE Prime health benefit option, service families will be able to determine how much they'll pay -- and how much they'll save -- when getting care under "Prime."

TRICARE, Defense's regional managed-care program, will go into effect nationwide, in 12 regions over the next several years. The first region to have a TRICARE managed-care support contract in operation will be Region 11, which includes the states of Washington and Oregon. Region 11 will offer the TRICARE Prime option beginning in March.

Under the TRICARE Prime voluntary enrollment option, families will enroll for a year at a time and will receive their health care from the Prime network of civilian and military providers. There's no enrollment fee for active duty families; for other CHAMPUS-eligible persons, the annual enrollment fee will be \$230 for an individual and \$460 for a family. Patients treated in service hospitals will continue to receive care in those facilities without having to share in the cost of the services provided.

Physicians' office visits in the civilian

portion of the network will cost \$6 for the families of active-duty E-4s and below and \$12 for all others. Emergency room visits will cost \$10 for active-duty E-4 and below families, and \$30 for all others. There'll be no charge for these services in military treatment facilities.

Inpatient care at civilian hospitals will cost \$11 per day (\$20 per day for mental health care) for active-duty families, compared with \$9.50 per day (with a \$25 minimum) under standard CHAMPUS. Retirees, survivors and their families will pay the same \$11 per day (\$40 per day for mental health care) for inpatient care, instead of standard CHAMPUS' \$323 per day or 25 percent of billed charged for the hospital stay, whichever is less. Under standard CHAMPUS, these patients also pay 25 percent of the professional fees for physicians and other providers who treat them in the hospital.

Prescriptions will cost \$5 for active-duty families and \$9 for all other enrollees, for a 30-day supply. Ambulatory surgery (in which the patient has surgery but does not stay over night in the hospital) will cost all enrollees \$25.

The Defense Department estimates that

enrollment in TRICARE Prime could save the enrolled active-duty E-4 and below family an average of \$170 on its health care costs each year. The estimated annual savings for other active-duty families is \$240. Military retirees, survivors and their families could save about \$100 per year, according to the Defense estimate.

In addition to the TRICARE Prime option, military families will have two other health care options from which to choose. The second option, TRICARE Extra, won't require enrollment. CHAMPUS-eligible persons will be able to use the "Extra" program's preferred network providers on a case-by-case basis, with discounts on cost-sharing and usually no claims to file.

The third option, TRICARE Standard, is the same as the standard CHAMPUS program. Patients may use any CHAMPUS-authorized providers they choose and will be subject to regular cost-sharing amounts and annual outpatient deductibles.

CHAMPUS-eligible families will receive information about their region's TRICARE managed-care support program in the near future.

(Office of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services)

Dental plan news for soldiers, families

Waiting to find a dentist until you need emergency dental care can be risky. A dentist's office may not be able to schedule an emergency visit if you are not an established patient with that particular dentist.

That's why, for family members enrolled in Dependent's Dental Plan, the best way to ensure emergency care is available is to make an appointment for a regular checkup with a dentist of your choice. This way you become a "patient of record" with that dentist and will be more readily accommodated if emergency treatment becomes necessary.

If you are enrolled in Dependents Dental

Plan, choosing a Delta dentist will save time, money and paperwork. Delta dentists agree to charge pre-approved fees, to submit claim forms for their patients and not to charge up front for covered services (except for the patient copayment for services covered at less than 100 percent). There are more than 100,000 Delta dentist offices throughout the Dependents Dental Plan service area, which includes the United States, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

To locate a nearby Delta Dentist, service family members can contact the Health Ben-

efits Advisor in any installation CHAMPUS office or call DDP*Delta Customer Service at (916) 381-9368. Another way to find a dentist is to ask a friend or coworker for a recommendation. When calling a dentist's office for the first time, it's a good idea to verify that the dentist is a participating Delta dentist.

Remember: the best way to ensure that emergency dental care is available when you need it is to visit a dentist and become an established patient as soon as possible.

*(DDP*Delta Customer Education)*

Do you have questions about the transition process, civilian personnel issues, etc? Well, the *Star Presidian* can help you find the answers. Call (415) 561-2182 and leave your question on the answering machine. We'll get the answers and publish them in a future issue of the paper.

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Mar. 10, 1995



Everybody sing along!

Where can you hear Elvis, Madonna and Patsy Cline all in the same room? The Presidio Community Club! Every Friday night, from 5 to 9 p.m., you can come and sing-along with Eva D's karaoke.

Many soldiers and retirees come to the Community Club to enjoy the performance and sing popular numbers from a 900-song selection ranging from country to pop and rock. Some of the Friday regulars are Spc. Greg Kluck (left), Sergeant 1st Class Wally and Mary Choi, Maj. Corbin Lee, and Joy Meserve.

The Friday night happy hour at the Community Club includes a full buffet with freshly carved roast beef and turkey.

Karaoke starts at 5 p.m., and you must be a club member.

Come join the fun and hear your favorite songs.

(Photo courtesy of Eva D)

Groundwater treatment, environmental cleanup at Crissy Field a major priority

Environmental cleanup is ongoing at two Crissy Field locations considered as high priority sites by the Army.

Groundwater treatment is underway at the Building 937 area on the west end of Crissy Field, and at Building 637, located in the old Motor Pool area.

Although a final cleanup plan for the Presidio has not been issued, the Army, along with Federal and State legislators, agreed that cleanup at these sites should begin immediately.

Details of the two areas are listed below.

BUILDING 937 AREA

In August 1994 the Army began using an innovative groundwater treatment system to remove contamination from the soil and groundwater in and around the former aircraft hangar. The Underdruck-Verdampfer-Brunnen system, developed in Germany, is known as "UVB," a vacuum vaporizer well which treats contaminated groundwater

without removing it from the ground.

The 937 area was selected for cleanup ahead of other sites on the Presidio due to its proximity to the Bay. Petroleum and cleaning solvents are the primary contaminants that have been found at the site. Contamination came from past vehicle maintenance activities as well as from leaking underground storage tanks which were removed in July 1993. Total cleanup cost through Fiscal Year 1994 has been approximately \$4 million.

HOW THE UVB WORKS

A vacuum system is used to move water through the UVB well. Water is drawn in at the bottom of the well and then flows up where it is injected with tiny air bubbles. These air bubbles remove the volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from the water. Treated groundwater then exits the well creating a circulation. In addition, the UVB removes VOCs from the soil above the

groundwater.

Air containing VOCs removed from the groundwater and soil is forced through two granular activated carbon canisters. The carbon in the canisters removes the VOCs from the air before they enter the atmosphere.

TESTING THE UVB

Periodically, the system is tested and the carbon units are changed to ensure that the VOCs are adequately removed and are not released into the atmosphere.

Current testing includes the use of groundwater monitoring wells installed at various depths to monitor the concentration of VOCs in the groundwater.

Additionally, two nontoxic dyes were injected into the wells at separate locations to determine the size of the area being cleaned by the system. Preliminary results indicate

See CLEANUP, page 8



As I See It

Women's history: We've come a long way, baby!

By Sharon E. Everett-Roles
Star Presidian staff

Do you remember those cigarette ads with the slogan, "You've come a long way, baby"? They show women in period attire of the late 19th century doing something that was "naughty" at the time and is widely accepted now. I got to thinking about those advertisements as I sat down to write about Women's History Month.

The question I asked myself was, "just how far have we come?" I have discovered there's more to women's history than suffrage and equal pay for equal work -- and we have only to look at history to find that this is so.

Ancient Celtic tales tell of two queens -- Boadicea and Maeve. Both were renowned warriors; Boadicea led her soldiers, driving her own chariot, and Maeve was reputed to be one of the best cattle raiders in the Irish kingdoms of Leinster and Connacht. I like to think that Boadicea and Maeve were the precursors of today's female soldiers -- like Lt. Col. Rhonda Cornum and Maj. Marie Rossi, who became known to all of us during Operation Desert Storm.

Maybe you'd like some more "recent" examples of woman warriors in history. I'm sure you remember the story of Molly Pitcher, who took over as gunner in the Revolutionary War when her husband was wounded. While Molly's real iden-

tity is not known, she is a perfect representative of the women who served in the Continental Army during that period. In fact, with constant manpower shortages, maintaining an army would have been next to impossible without the women who followed their husbands into battle.

Women have gone to great lengths to serve their country. In the War of 1812, Lucy Brewer, later acknowledged by the Marine Corps as the "first girl Marine," disguised herself as a man and served for three years on the *U.S.S. Constitution* under the name of George Baker. In 1846, Sarah Borginis disguised herself as a man and achieved the rank of Brevet Colonel under Gen. Zachary Taylor.

We also have a long history in the world of medicine. In ancient societies, the village wise woman prepared herbal remedies, assisted in childbirth, and gave medical advice. We've continued that tradition through the ages. The pages of history show us several examples.

On March 16, 1883, Susan Hayhurst became the first woman pharmacist upon her graduation from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy.

The first woman physician of modern times was Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, a native of England who came to the United States as a young girl and re-

ceived her M.D. degree in 1849 at the Geneva Medical School of Western New York.

Clara Barton collected supplies and medical equipment, often at her own expense, and supervised their delivery and distribution to soldiers in the field during the Civil War. She also looked after the wounded and dying after battles, even though she scarcely escaped death herself at the battle of Antietam.

After the war, Barton helped found the first National Cemetery at Arlington, Va., and organized the American Red Cross.

Dr. Mary Walker, an early feminist, gave up a medical practice to join the Union Army as a nurse in 1864. In those days, female doctors had not been accepted as much as female nurses. Walker was later commissioned as a lieutenant in the Medical Corps, thus becoming the first woman doctor in the Army.

So, exactly how far have we come? I'd say that the annals of time show how important women have been, and continue to be, in history and society.

In closing, I'd like to share a story about Sir Winston Churchill. A reporter was interviewing him and asked, "What do you say sir, to the prediction that in the year 2000 women will be ruling the world?"

Churchill smiled and replied, "They still will, eh?"

Star Presidian

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Chief, Command Information.....Sharon E. Everett-Roles

Presidio Pulse

Reward offered

A \$200 reward (0271-4-ID026-45971) is offered for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person(s) who committed a larceny of a Hewlett Packard HP4 Laserjet Printer from the Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Recruiting Brigade between Dec. 23 and 27, 1994. Anyone with information regarding this investigation should contact Special Agent Dearborn at (510) 466-4131. Reward expires March 1, 1996.

Retirement ceremony

The following schedule of Retirement Ceremonies prior to installation closure is provided: March 30, April 27, May 25. Individuals desiring to participate in the ceremony need to inform the Retirement Services Office no later than the second Monday of the month in which they plan to participate. For information, please contact Mary Henning at (415) 561-3600/3606.

VA home loan

The Staff Judge Advocate's Office has obtained a limited supply (10) of the request form required to obtain a VA home loan certificate of eligibility. You may not have been told that if you get/got a certificate of eligibility while you were in the service, it is no good once you are out -- in other words, you are no longer eligible to apply for the VA home loan after ETS or retirement. Forms are available on a first come/first served basis. Call Sgt. Robert Carden at (415) 561-3131/2162 for information.

Household hazardous waste

With the final closure of the Presidio coming this October, several residents have expressed concern over household hazardous wastes. Household hazardous wastes include a wide variety of products that are used in and around the home. They can be paint products such as latex and oil paints, thinners, solvents, and spray paints. Household hazardous wastes also include cleaning products such as disinfectants and drain cleaners. Pesticides, herbicides, and other poisonous gardening products qualify as hazardous wastes. Flammable products such as lighter fluids and gasoline also need to be treated as hazardous waste.

The Environmental Office currently accepts these wastes from on-post residents. In the coming months, everyone will be clearing out of quarters and need to dispose of their household waste. The installation is in the process of setting up a monthly turn-in for household waste. These turn-ins will begin some time in May and continue through the final closure of the Presidio. The monthly turn-in will consist of residents bringing their waste to a specified location on post.

If you are departing the Presidio prior to May, call the Environmental Office at (415) 561-3645 to schedule a pick-up. Otherwise, please hold on to your household items until the post-wide collection(s). Empty containers require no special handling and may be placed directly in the trash.

The Environmental Office currently does not have the capability to collect used automotive products, such as used motor oil, batteries, and brake fluid. If you wish to dispose of any of these products, there are several off-post locations that will accept them. Golden Gate Shell, 1200 19th Avenue (415) 661-1168, will accept used batteries and small volumes of brake fluid for free. It charges \$1 per gallon of oil. Grand Auto Supply, 2246 Lombard Street (415) 563-4200, accepts waste oil for free. Please do not leave your used products at the AAFES Service Station as you may be cited for a violation by local authorities and/or the Military Police. During the monthly turn-ins, you will be able to dispose of used automotive products.

If you have a question about whether a product is hazardous, please feel free to contact the Environmental Office at (415) 561-3645. If a product has a warning or caution label, it will normally contain some type of hazard.

Transition news

In an effort to assist soldiers with the transition process, the following guidelines are provided.

Upon receipt of assignment instructions, the soldier will report to his/her PAC. The PAC will initiate COPRIN packet (e.g., medical screening for soldier and/or family members; detailed assignment instructions).

Upon receipt of orders, soldiers assigned to the Presidio will report to the Housing Office, Building 204, (415) 561-3641, and schedule both housing and transportation appointments. The soldier will then take a copy of orders to the Presidio AG liaison, Building 34, Room 102, (415) 561-3600/3606, to request his/her 201 file from Fort Lewis, Washington.

Forty-five days prior to the actual departure date, the soldier will report to his/her PAC to request advanced travel and/or pay. Ten days prior to the actual departure date, the soldier will report to his/her PAC for installation clearance papers and schedule for a final outprocessing appointment.

In addition, the soldier's commander will ensure all soldiers departing the Presidio clear the following facilities:

-- Personnel Service Center, Building 34, Room 102, (415) 561-3600/3606, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

-- Medical Clinic, Letterman Hospital, 2nd Floor, (415) 561-3103, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

-- Dental Clinic, Letterman Hospital, 2nd Floor, (415) 561-3177, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

-- Community Club, Building 50, (415) 921-1612, normal business hours Tuesday through Sunday.

-- Nonappropriated Funds, Building 34, Room 102, (415) 561-3600/3606, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

-- AAFES/DPP, Building 605, (415) 561-2785, normal business hours Tuesday through Sunday.

-- Housing and Transportation Office, Building 204, (415) 561-3630, 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

-- Provost Marshal, Building 36, (415) 561-3683, 24 hours a day.

-- Education Center, Building 682, (415) 561-3683, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those ETSing or retiring must make an appointment first.

-- AER/Lending Locker, Building 682, (415) 561-3612, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For additional information, contact Mary Henning, AG Liaison, Building 34, room 102, or phone (415) 561-3600/3606.

BRAC site visit

BRAC-Beneficiary Work Group site visits and town hall meetings will take place at 8:30 a.m. noon, and 3 p.m. March 25, in the base theater at Alameda Naval Air Station. This is an opportunity for retirees, active duty service members and their spouses to voice concerns about health care in the Bay Area. There will be congressional representatives to provide information concerning health care issues. For information, please contact Maj. Hernandez at (415) 561-3130 or Cdr. Budda at (510) 633-4532.

Blood drive

Sixth U.S. Army will have its last blood drive Wednesday. The blood drive will take place from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the basement of Building 39 (Readiness Group Presidio classroom). This year's blood drive is sponsored by the Navy Medical Center's Blood Program, which sponsors various blood drives around the Bay Area to supplement the medical center's existing blood supply. The blood drive is open and extended to all military personnel, civilians, retirees, and Park Service personnel. All potential donors will be screened at the blood drive location prior to making their donations. Due to the various effects of donating blood, it is recommended that each donor be given a period of recoupment (within the constraints of their sections) after making a donation. If you have any questions regarding the blood drive, or if you are able to donate, please contact Maj. Alex Gardner, Sixth Army Blood Drive Coordinator, at (415) 561-2057.

Fewer base closures in 1995 anticipated by DoD officials, says Secretary Perry

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Information Service

DoD will recommend fewer base closures than originally anticipated in its 1995 proposal to Congress, Secretary of Defense William J. Perry recently told the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

This fourth and final set of closures will be smaller because the previous three rounds identified all the relatively easy-to-close bases, Perry said.

Perry drew thundering applause from the mayors when he pledged the department's full and vigorous support in helping communities redevelop and reuse closed bases.

DoD also has a special obligation to military, DoD civilians and private-sector workers who helped win the Cold War, he said. "We owe them more than just a thank you," Perry added.

DoD is spending about \$15 billion to close 70 bases on the current hit lists. "We think of this as a money-saving operation, but the first step in it is an investment," he explained. "During the course of closing these bases we'll recover that \$15 billion. And every year after that we'll save about

\$4 billion in our defense budget. That's the impetus of going through this reduction of overhead."

Closing military bases cuts costs and reduces DoD's overhead, Perry noted. "We have reduced the overall size of the defense structure by about 33 percent in the last seven or eight years," he said. "And in that same process we're trying to reduce the infrastructure, including the bases that go with it."

So far, DoD has cut the number of military bases by about 20 percent. "The force structure has gone down farther than the infrastructure which supports it, so we have to make further reductions in the overhead structure, which is a further reduction in bases," the secretary said.

Many communities are concerned about the length of time it takes to convert military bases to civilian use. Consequently, DoD has intensified its efforts to help communities. "We've cut in half the time it takes to close a military base," Perry pointed out. "We've also reduced the time it takes to turn closing bases over to communities and to foster the job creation."

For example, he continued, last July some 1,800 acres of land at Fort Ord, Calif., and

all of the buildings on the parcel were turned over free to the California State University and University of California systems. Classes get under way this fall, Perry noted.

"I had to work long, hard hours on this. It was an enormous task to get through all of the bureaucracy and red tape to get that conveyance effected, but we did it," Perry told the mayors. "And now the citizens in that community -- indeed, over the whole state of California -- are going to benefit from that."

Base closings are win-win situations for DoD and civilian communities, he said. In the case of Fort Ord, the burden of supporting an infrastructure was lifted from DoD's shoulders. It was a winner for the community in helping their economic revitalization, he added.

"We've also increased the economic development and planning grant for communities that are affected by base closures," Perry told the mayors. "Last year the average grant was more than \$400,000. That's more than three times greater than it was three years ago."

Grants are given to help communities plan for reusing bases and to help jump-start economic renewal, he noted.

TAX CORNER

Salaries, unemployment compensation, tips and lottery winnings are considered income for federal tax purposes, said Internal Revenue Service officials. On the other hand, child support, military allowances and certain portions of Social Security benefits generally are not.

Exactly what constitutes taxable income can sometimes be confusing. What is considered income is more than just what you receive in your paycheck. For example, severance pay, barter income, death benefits in excess of \$5,000, jury pay and income from illegal activities are taxable.

Taxable income includes:

- * Wages, salaries, tips;
- * Social Security benefits (above limitation);
- * Royalties;

- * Interest;
- * Cancellation of debts by a financial institution, government agency or credit union;
- * Cash and noncash prizes;
- * Alimony;
- * Certain state and local income tax refunds; and
- * Recovery of items deducted in a previous year.

Nontaxable income includes:

- * Child support;
- * Certain income earned overseas;
- * Certain foster care payments;
- * Interest on certain U.S. savings bonds, if used for educational purposes;
- * Alimony, if not deducted by the payer; and
- * Portions of Social Security, annuity

and pension benefits.

For specific or additional information on taxable and nontaxable income, check with the local installation or unit tax office, or contact the nearest IRS office. Another option, said IRS officials, is to call the IRS assistance office at toll-free 1-800-829-1040.

Two free IRS publications may answer your questions. For copies of Publication 525, *Taxable and Nontaxable Income*, and Publication 531, *Reporting Income From Tips*, call toll-free 1-800-829-3676. Or write to:

IRS

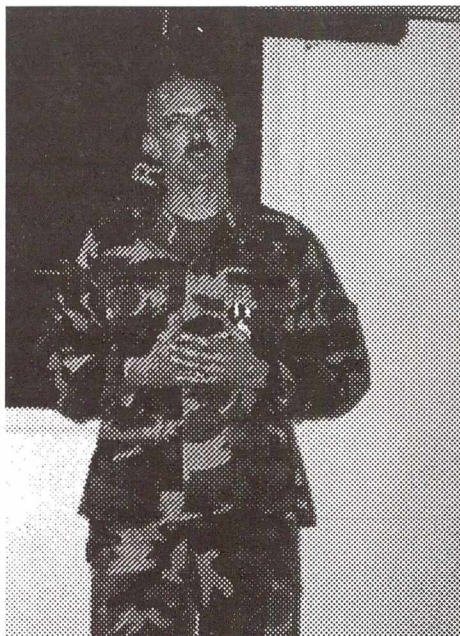
Forms Distribution Center

P.O. Box 25866

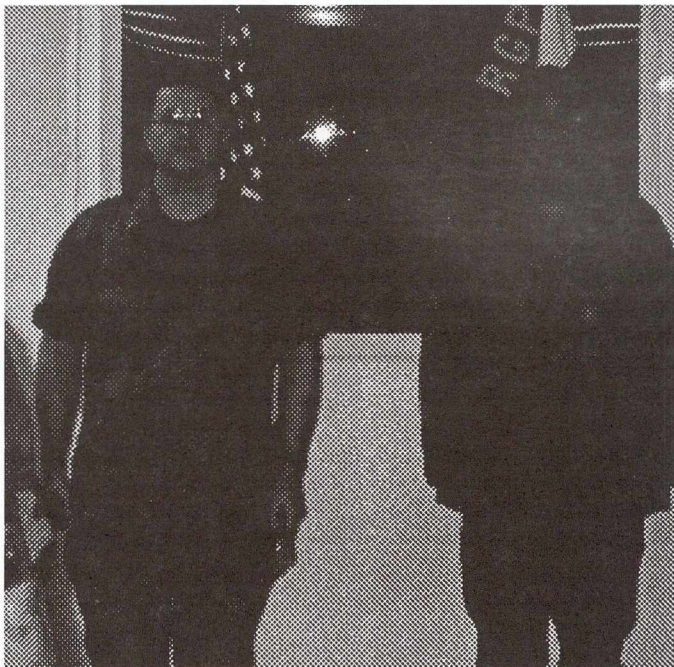
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(American Forces Information Service)

Focus on Readiness Group Presidio



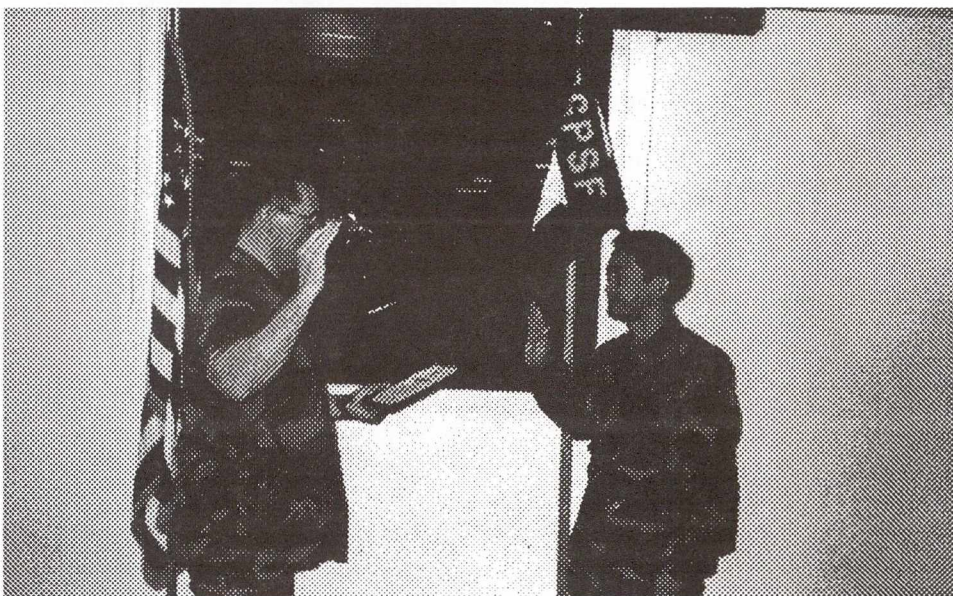
Lt. Col. Tom Utterback was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal prior to his PCS move.



Jeffery Hines (right) was promoted to the rank of master sergeant by Lt. Col. Thomas Cavender, Readiness Group Commander



Sergeant 1st Class Joel D. Hembree (right) received an award of merit for his work on the Combined Federal Campaign. The presentation was made by Readiness Group commander Lt. Col. Thomas Cavender.



Sgt. Maj. Enrique Camacho (right) reenlisted in the Army. Camacho was sworn in by Lt. Col. Thomas Cavender

PHOTOS by STAFF SGT. JUAN NAVARRO, READINESS GROUP, PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO



Master Sgt. Reggie L. Eakins also reenlisted. Eakins was sworn in by Maj. Jeffrey A. Lochow.

Stressful times call for CARE, attention

By Sharon E. Everett-Roles
Star Presidian staff

There's no doubt in anyone's mind that the closure of Sixth U.S. Army headquarters is going to make for stressful times -- and that it already has done so for many. Soldiers and their families are preparing to PCS -- some barely a year after arriving here. Civilians are threatened once again by job loss in an uncertain economy. There are numerous unknowns to deal with while still trying to do a good job for the Army.

Sometimes stresses like these can cause a person to lapse into a depression or, when circumstances appear completely insurmountable, to a suicide or suicide attempt.

"Suicide in the military has gotten a lot of attention over the past few months," said Chaplain (Col.) Willie Peacock, Sixth U.S. Army chaplain. "It's always been with us. One of the biggest things we can do to prevent it is to care -- neighbor to neighbor, soldier to soldier, and family member to family member."

What are the signs that someone is severely depressed and/or suicidal? Here are a few things that may be indicators. Of course, in any issues regarding suicide, it is important to consult with appropriately trained mental health professionals.

People who are depressed typically have the following symptoms:

- Poor sleep patterns (difficulty getting to sleep at night and interrupted sleep; occasionally people will sleep a great deal, 12 or more hours each day, and yet still feel very fatigued).
- Symptom of fatigue: Not being able to respond to life's usual demands.
- Loss of interest in activities normally enjoyed; loss of sex drive.
- Poor concentration and inability to attend to tasks -- someone's performance evaluation taking a sudden nosedive and children's experiencing a sudden dip in grades often signifies the possibility of a depression.
- Typically a weight loss (people with a major depression describe eating food as like

eating styrofoam or cardboard; it is tasteless and they lose their appetite. A smaller percentage of people will put on weight, feeling ravenous much of the time and overeating).

-- Increased irritability -- people with a depression will be quite thin-skinned; they will perceive others as criticizing them when someone is just making a suggestion. Adolescents will often become defiant and nothing their parents say is right. They might perceive a simple "hello" as an attack.

Anyone with these kinds of symptoms should be referred to a mental health professional for a more thorough assessment. Many people will respond to medication and begin feeling better within a matter of a few weeks.

Researchers have identified elements that can predict suicide. Primary signs include feelings of hopelessness, helplessness, and worthlessness. These can be brought about by significant losses, like the breakup of a close relationship, death of a loved one, worry about job or school performance, loss of support system or emotional safety, and loss of social or financial status of family. Other factors might include drug or alcohol abuse, loss of job, debt/low income, loss of status (downward mobility), separation and divorce.

The key to suicide prevention is being alert to the warning signs and reaching out to the suicidal person.

Warnings may be verbal:

- "I'm going to kill myself."
- "I'd be better off dead."
- "I just can't go on any longer."
- "You won't be seeing me around anymore."

-- "I'm getting out."

Behavioral warnings can be clues, too:

- Organizing business and personal matters.
- Giving away possessions.
- Composing a suicide note.
- Buying a gun.
- Obsession with death.
- A sudden lift in spirits.
- Planning one's own funeral.

Remember, too, that people are at greater risk if they have made a previous suicide

attempt, have a family history of suicide, have lost a friend through suicide, have been involved with drugs or alcohol, or have alcoholics in the family.

What should you do if a friend or family member exhibits these symptoms or behaviors? First of all, take threats seriously. You should also answer cries for help, confront the problem, let the person know you care, and get professional help from crisis or suicide prevention centers, physicians, and mental health centers. Referrals may be obtained from military chaplains or Family Support Groups.

Things you should not do are:

- Leave the person alone.
- Assume the person is not "the type."
- Keep it secret.
- Act shocked.
- Argue or reason.
- Analyze.
- Shock or challenge.

Be sure to encourage positive action! Encourage the person to:

- Improve the home situation.
- Keep busy.
- Get away for a while.
- Get some exercise.
- Talk things over.
- Try to change the situation.
- Try a new approach.
- Learn to relax.

Peacock shared a card entitled "The Army Takes Care of Its Own," designed to be kept in a wallet. It is reproduced here as a "clip and save" item. The premise behind the CARE card is to help remind soldiers of how they can treat one another during stressful times in order to prevent depression and suicide.

SOURCES:

Suicide Awareness & Prevention: A Resource Manual for Military Chaplains, Menninger Division of Continuing Education and the Religion and Psychiatry Department, The Menninger Clinic, Topeka, Kansas.

There Is Hope: Chaplain's Manual for Suicide Prevention, Forces Command Staff Chaplain's Office, Fort McPherson, Georgia.

The Army Takes CARE of Its Own

Compassion - Leads us to actively help others not to hurt themselves.

Affirmation - Helping others to feel good about themselves. Go out of your way to provide a smile, a pat on the back, a listening ear.

Responsibility - Being alert to feelings of helplessness, hopelessness and worthlessness in someone else's behavior. Take threats seriously. Heed a cry for help. Talk openly to the person about his or her problems and feelings. Verbally express your care and reinforce a message of concern. Stay close until help is available.

Encouragement - Aggressively assist the hurting person to get help. Hospital emergency room. Community mental health activity. Chaplain. Other helping agencies.

SUICIDE INDICATORS

- A preoccupation with death or threatening to commit suicide.
- A history of suicide attempts, gesture, threats, behaviors.
- Exhibiting significant signs of depression.
- A dramatic drop in job performance.
- Severe personality changes.

- Making final arrangements or other suicidal behaviors.
- Experiencing a significant loss.
- Exhibiting a hopelessness about life.
- Symptoms of high stress.

WHAT TO AVOID

- Don't assume anyone isn't the suicidal "type."
- Don't keep a deadly secret. Tell someone if you suspect a friend is suicidal.
- Don't worry about your friend being angry about your actions. Remember, it's better to have a live, angry friend than a dead one.

GGNRA seeks housing manager

The National Park Service is requesting proposals from interested organizations to renovate, lease and manage residential buildings as the Presidio Housing Manager within the historic district of the Presidio of San Francisco under a long-term master lease from the National Park Service. The Presidio of San Francisco was transferred from the U.S. Department of the Army to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on Oct. 1, 1994.

Included in the Request for Proposals are 227 housing units grouped in 11 clusters totalling 123 historic residential buildings that all contribute to the Presidio of San Francisco's status as a National Historic Landmark. The buildings are examples of late nineteenth-century Victorian and early twentieth-century Colonial Revival architectural styles. These residences will be available by Sept. 30. In addition to these buildings, there may be additional housing units in both historic and non-historic buildings as part of the NPS Presidio Residential Program.

Housing, as directed by the Presidio General Management Plan, will be used primarily for park partners. These partners in-

clude the organizations, institutions, private enterprises, or agencies whose activities further the goals of the National Park Service.

The National Park Service is seeking proposals from for-profit and nonprofit organizations, joint ventures, and master lessee/subtenant arrangements. Minority businesses and women-owned businesses are encouraged to respond.

The National Park Service expects the residential buildings to generate a positive revenue source, taking into consideration required rehabilitation and other costs factors to be determined during negotiations.

With this offering, the National Park Service has a number of leasing actions underway, with more coming out in the next several months. Other leasing opportunities currently available include historic buildings at the Presidio's Main Post and concessions operations at the bowling center and the Presidio Golf Course. Bob Chandler, Presidio General Manager, stated that "Selecting a management entity for housing will go a long way in meeting the goals of the General Management Plan and will enhance our efforts to bring park partners onto

the Presidio."

Organizations submitting proposals should include: a transmittal letter; a Conceptual Rehabilitation, Leasing, and Management Plan; a demonstration of qualifications and experience; and a demonstration of financial capability to implement a rehabilitation, leasing, and management program. In order to be selected, an organization must have the capacity to plan, finance, and implement the Conceptual Rehabilitation, Leasing, and Management Plan.

Submittal deadline is April 17.

The Requests for Proposals for a Presidio Housing Manager organization is being issued by the Presidio Project Office of Golden Gate National Recreation Area under authority granted to the National Park Service by the Historic Leasing Act. Copies of the Request for Proposals (RFP), containing details on the overall leasing process, may be obtained by interested organizations by writing to the National Park Service, Presidio Project Office, Box 29022, Presidio of San Francisco, CA 94129-0022. For further information, contact the Presidio Project Office, telephone (415) 556-3111.

(Golden Gate National Recreation Area)

Oops!

Editor's Note: The following sidebar information was inadvertently omitted from the last issue of the Star Presidian. It should have been included with the feature on environmental cleanup.

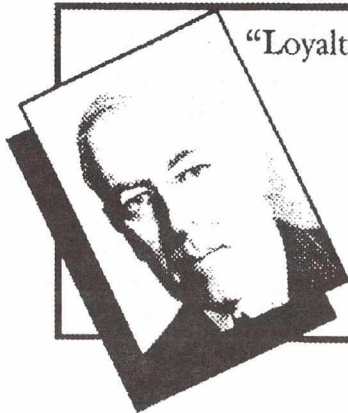
A Record of Decision on the cleanup of the former Public Health Service Hospital (PHSH) property should be signed by the Department of the Army in March 1995.

A separate RI/FS was conducted for the PHSH because the land was not included in the statute which transferred the Presidio to the National Park Service. Based on the RI/FS, a draft RAP was issued, followed by a public comment period and meeting in August 1994. After reviewing comments from the National Park Service and the public, the Army revised and reissued the RAP, changing its recommendation on the cleanup of Landfill 8 to accommodate the National Park Service's plan to reintroduce native plants at the site. The new plan calls for long-term monitoring instead of capping the landfill. This will prevent possible damage to the native plants. A public comment period and meeting on the revised draft RAP was held November through December 1994.

AUSA golf TOURNAMENT ANNOUNCED

The 14th Annual Association of the United States Army Golf Tournament will be played at the historic, challenging, and scenic Presidio Army Golf Club on April 7. Tee off is at 8:15 a.m. with a shotgun start. The format is a four-player handicap team scramble and is open to all military and civilians. Entry fee of \$100 includes a continental breakfast, greens fee, golf cart, lunch, drinks on the course, tee gifts, and prizes. Some of the most prominent hotels, restaurants, and businesses have donated fabulous prizes and an automobile awaits a hole-in-one. Tournament proceeds fund programs to support local soldiers and their families. Come out and join us for a great day of golf and fun. For more information, please contact Mark Crenshaw at (415) 561-2971 (work) or (415) 931-9035 (home).

WORTH REDEFINING



"Loyalty means nothing unless it has at its heart the absolute principle of self-sacrifice."

—Woodrow Wilson
(1856-1924)
U.S. president

The back page

CLEANUP, continued from page 1

the contaminants are entering the system at the bottom of the UVB well and are being successfully removed by the vacuum system.

BUILDING 637

The Army began interim cleanup at this former gas station after the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake caused storage tanks and related piping to leak into the soil and groundwater.

Although a complete cleanup plan (Corrective Action Plan) will be developed, the Army, with the concurrence of State and Federal Regulators, initiated an interim of cleanup action to address the most critical contamination at this site. This site was not included in the Main Installation Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study because cleanup is under the Underground Storage Tank Management Program.

The final version of the Corrective action Plan will be available for public review in March 1995. A public notice announcing the 30-day review period and availability of the plan will be published in a daily newspaper.

To date, the following actions have taken place:

- Removal of six Aboveground Storage Tanks in September 1993.

- Three 20,000 (Gasoline).

- Three 5,000 (Diesel).

- Removal of soil beneath the tanks in September 1993.

- Investigation of the site began in October 1993 using techniques such as soil borings, hydropunches and monitoring wells.

- A groundwater treatment system was installed in August 1994 to remove fuels from the groundwater.*

- The pump and treat system is being used for the most contaminated portion of the 637 area, which also contains free product.

- Quarterly groundwater monitoring beginning February 1995 to monitor changes to hydrocarbon plumes in the groundwater.

- Testing to identify aquifer boundaries in the area was initiated in March 1994. The

test involved pumping a well at the site while water levels were monitored continuously for more than 60 hours. The information was used to model groundwater flow and to design pumping schemes for the cleanup plan.

- An interim action for soil cleanup scheduled to begin in May 1995 will consist of removing and treating soil using aboveground bioremediation.

- *The treatment system consists of a water and fuel skimming pump placed within an extraction well. The system, creating a cone of depression in which fuel and groundwater will flow, will then be separated by a fuel skimmer. The fuel is then pumped through a hose into a double contained stor-

age tank. The groundwater takes a different path, flowing out of the well through a water discharge pipe. The groundwater containing dissolved fuel is pumped through a filter to two granular activated carbon vessels. The filter removes solids in the water stream, and the carbon in the vessels removes fuels. The clean groundwater is then discharged to the sanitary sewer system. Groundwater samples are collected periodically and the carbon units are changed as required to ensure that the water discharged to the sanitary sewer is clean.

Total cleanup cost through Fiscal Year 1994 has been approximately \$4.5 million.

(Base Environmental Coordinator's Office)



The Readiness Group, Presidio and Sixth Army Chaplain held memorial services Feb. 23 at the Post Chapel for Master Sgt. Margie F. Pellerin.

Master Sgt. Pellerin died Feb. 15. She lived on the Presidio and worked as a Senior Advisor on the Branch Assistance Team (Finance), Readiness Group.

She was posthumously promoted to the rank of Master Sergeant.

At press time, cause of death was pending a coroner's report.

Funeral services were conducted Feb. 24 at St. Paul Catholic Church, and interment took place in Calvary Cemetery with full military honors. The pallbearers were the military Honor Guard from Fort Polk, La.

Master Sgt. Pellerin is survived by a son, Jai Marquel Pellerin of San Francisco, and her mother, Margaret Pellerin-Majors of Fort Worth, Texas. (Photograph provided by Readiness Group, Presidio of San Francisco)

Do you have questions about the transition process, civilian personnel issues, etc? Well, the *Star Presidian* can help you find the answers. Call (415) 561-2182 and leave your question on the answering machine. We'll get the answers and publish them in a future issue of the paper.

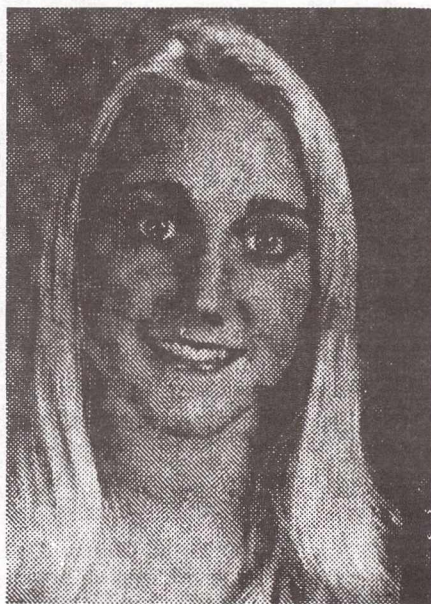
Star Presidian

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Published for the Presidio of San Francisco military community

Mar. 24, 1995

Swimming Presidio siblings visit U.S. Olympic Training Center for training



Photos courtesy of Indian Valley Aquatics of Novato

Compiled by Sharon E. Everett-Roles
Star Presidian staff

Maj. Gregory Hengel, Operational Readiness Evaluation team, must be one proud father.

According to an article in the *Novato Advance*, Hengel's children, Hans (left) and Heidi (right), recently attended the United States Olympic Committee Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo. The brother and sister were selected based on their strong performance in the 1650-yard freestyle event at the Pacific Swimming Senior Short-Course Championships.

Hans and Heidi are members of the Pacific Swimming all-star distance team, which was chosen at the meet.

While in Colorado, both of the younger Hengels took part in high-altitude training and were tested and filmed swimming in the multi-million-dollar flume, which is the showcase of the International Center for Aquatic Research.

Park Police at Fort Mason nab suspect shown on "America's Most Wanted"

A suspect who appeared on "America's Most Wanted" television program in November and claimed he would never be taken alive, was arrested without incident by the U.S. Park Police in the Fort Mason area of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) on March 6.

Lookouts for the suspect arrested by U.S. Park Police had been generated since the show ran in November. "The U.S. Park Police has one of the most highly trained police forces in the entire country. They have protected some of our nation's greatest treasures and made our national parks safe for visitors and the surrounding residents," stated GGNRA General Superintendent

Brian O'Neill.

The suspect, Stephen Moreland Redd, 49, is wanted on suspicion of armed robbery and murder in southern California. He is a suspect in a 1994 armed robbery which occurred at an Alpha Beta Market in Yorba Linda, Calif. During the robbery, the manager of the store was shot and killed.

Officer Robert Jansing, U.S. Park Police, stopped Redd on a violation of the vehicle code. When Redd produced improper identification, he was taken into custody and his vehicle impounded. A search of his vehicle turned up numerous semi-automatic weapons with laser scopes, ammunition, bullet-proof Kevlar helmet and vest, a gre-

nade launcher and grenades, as well as other weapons.

The FBI was contacted and responded to the scene to assist. Redd will be transferred to the custody of the Brea Police Department in Orange County, Calif., where he will face charges for the armed robbery and murder.

Jansing has been with the U.S. Park Police in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area for more than seven years. He is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division.

(Golden Gate National Recreation Area)

Attention Presidians!

Don't leave trash in other quarters' storage

Some occupants of family housing quarters are storing personal property and other items, including trash and debris, in storage areas/carports/garages which are part of vacant units. This is a reminder that occupants are only authorized to use the space assigned their quarters and cannot "take over" space and storage areas for other quarters -- even if they are vacant.

The Army will depart from the Presidio of San Francisco Sept. 30, and all buildings will be transferred to the National Park Service. As part of that transfer, a joint

inspection of all buildings and vacant quarters will be conducted by representatives of both organizations. Quarters (including storage areas) and trash receptacles are inspected and must be clean and empty prior to the transfer.

Unauthorized use of storage areas adversely affects the transfer of buildings and vacant quarters. During recent inspections, several sets of vacant family housing quarters were rejected by the Park Service because nearby residents had occupied storage areas and carports for those quarters.

If you have personal property in areas not assigned to your quarters, remove it. Starting today, the Fort Lewis Sub-Installation will cut locks off all storage areas for vacant quarters and remove and dispose of the contents so that the transfer of quarters can be accomplished.

Any questions about this matter should be addressed to CW4 Sean Karamath, (415) 561-3692. If you need to have trash or debris removed from your quarters area, call (415) 561-3603 to arrange for pick-up. (Ft. Lewis Sub-Installation Command)

TAX CORNER

Changes in 1994 federal taxes could revise the bottom line on your tax return, said Internal Revenue Service officials.

Before you sit down to do your taxes, IRS officials recommend you find out about the changes and how they may affect your taxes. For example, more people may qualify for the earned income credit, but the extra credit for a child born during the year is gone.

To take you through the updated tax laws, IRS offers a free pamphlet, IRS Publication 553, *Highlights of 1994 Tax Changes*. For a copy, call toll-free 1-800-829-3676 or write to:

IRS

Forms Distribution Center
P.O. Box 25866

Richmond, VA 23289.

IRS officials said tax law changes include:

- * Social Security and equivalent Tier 1 railroad retirement benefits may be taxed at a higher rate, up from 50 percent to 85 percent.

- * Earned income tax credit amount increases, as does the amount an individual

earns, for people who work and have qualifying children.

- * Individuals who work but don't have children may now qualify for the earned income credit.

- * The health insurance credit and the extra credit for a child born during the calendar year are now gone.

- * Standard mileage rate for using your car for work has increased to 29 cents per mile, up 1 cent per mile.

- * Travel expenses paid for someone accompanying you on a trip, like a spouse, can no longer be deducted unless the individual has a specific business purpose on the trip and would be allowed to deduct the expenses.

- * People who deduct business meals and expenses may now deduct only 50 percent of the cost.

- * Deductions for dues and memberships in clubs are out.

- * Some expenses associated with a work-related move may no longer be deducted, such as travel expenses, meals and lodging for a premove househunting trip and quali-

fied home sale, purchase and lease expenses.

- * To be able to deduct any moving expense, the new main job location must be at least 50 miles farther from the old home than the old job location. The previous measure was 35 miles.

- * To deduct one-time contributions of \$250 or more to a charity, you must have written documentation from the charity.

- * For contributions to charities that are more than \$75 in funds and goods or services, the charity must give you a written statement indicating the amount over the value that is tax deductible.

- * Luxury taxes on furs, jewelry, aircraft and boats are repealed, but they still apply to certain items such as passenger vehicles with a sticker price of more than \$32,000.

If you have specific questions or need help with these changes or other aspects of filing your federal tax return, check with the unit or installation tax office. In addition, contact the local IRS office or call toll-free 1-800-829-1040.

(American Forces Information Service)

Star Presidian

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Presidio Pulse

Reward offered

A \$200 reward (0271-4-ID026-45971) is offered for information leading to the identification, arrest and conviction of the person(s) who committed a larceny of a Hewlett Packard HP4 Laserjet Printer from the Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Recruiting Brigade between Dec. 23 and 27, 1994. Anyone with information regarding this investigation should contact Special Agent Dearborn at (510) 466-4131. Reward expires March 1, 1996.

Retirement ceremony

In an effort to render the appropriate honors to retirees, the following schedule of Retirement Ceremonies prior to installation closure is provided: March 30, April 27, May 25. Individuals desiring to participate in the ceremony need to inform the Retirement Services Office no later than the second Monday of the month in which they plan to participate. For information, please contact Mary Henning at (415) 561-3600/3606.

TRICARE update

All individuals PCSing this summer -- please remember to disenroll from TRICARE. Disenrollment must be done in person at Letterman's TRICARE Service Center. This can be done up to two weeks in advance (i.e., leaving the Bay Area on July 1, then on June 16 tell the TRICARE personnel to make the disenrollment date effective at midnight on June 30). For questions or information, please call TRICARE at (415) 561-0650.

VA home loan

The Staff Judge Advocate's Office has obtained a limited supply (10) of the request form required to obtain a VA home loan certificate of eligibility. You may not have been told that if you get/got a certificate of eligibility while you were in the service, it is no good once you are out -- in other words, you must obtain a new certificate after you ETS or retire; the one you obtained while in the service will no longer be valid. Forms are available on a first come/first served basis. Call Veterans Affairs at 1-800-827-1000 for information.

Legal assistance

Appointments with the Legal Assistance attorney are readily available. This is a good opportunity to update your will (spouses

too!) or take care of other concerns. Telephone for an appointment, (415) 561-2164.

BRAC site visit

A BRAC-Beneficiary Work Group site visit and town hall meeting will take place at 8:30 a.m. noon, and 3 p.m. tomorrow, in the base theater at Alameda Naval Air Station. This is an opportunity for retirees, active duty and their spouses to voice their concerns and questions about health care in the Bay Area. There will be congressional representatives to provide information concerning health care issues. For information, please contact Maj. Hernandez at (415) 561-3130 or Cdr. Budda at (510) 633-4532.

Exploratorium hours

The Exploratorium, San Francisco's museum of science, art, and human perception, will be open for the entire family to enjoy during the Easter holidays and spring break, from April 10 to April 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Exploratorium is located inside the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco's Marina District. The Exploratorium is wheelchair accessible.

Casting call

So you want to be in the movies? Volunteer as an extra in an AIDS march scene for Columbia Pictures' high tech thriller "The Net," starring Sandra Bullock and Dennis Miller. The shoot takes place from 5:30 p.m. to 1 a.m., April 9. Sign up your friends and family today. Call, write, or fax your address and phone number to American Red Cross bay Area, 1550 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Phone (415) 202-07090 or fax (415) 202-0622, attention Paula Rampe.

ORE Golf Tournament

The Operational Readiness Evaluation team's golf tournament takes place March 28. The tournament is open to all personnel. Please call Lloyd Horn, (415) 561-2673 or Jim Harris, (415) 561-2637, if you are interested in playing.

Change management

The Army Community Service "Change Management Workshop" can help relieve stress, teach you tools to help you cope with change quickly, and help you and your family recognize the emotions and feelings of change. Managers are welcome to call

Adrienne Vanasco at (415) 561-3612 to schedule dates for individual offices.

Leadership workshop

The Army Community Service "Leadership Change Management Workshop" takes place from 8 to 10 a.m. or 2 to 4 p.m., March 29, at the ACS conference Room, Building 682. All management staff from GS-7 through GM-15 should attend to learn about dealing with stress (yours and everyone else's), prevention of workplace violence, working with your employees to develop coping skills, and being a professional when faced with adversity. Call Adrienne Vanasco at (415) 561-3612 to reserve your space.

Job Fair

The fifth annual Veterans Job Fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 25, at the Fort Mason Conference Center, Building A, in San Francisco. The fair is sponsored by the San Francisco Veterans Employment Committee, and is open to the public. There is no admission fee. Bring your resume and be prepared to interview. For information, call Tony Esperanza at (415) 749-7571 or Michael Allen at (415) 749-7545.

Job opportunities

A representative from the Eighth U.S. Army Civilian Recruiting Office (Seattle) will present information on Federal Civil Service job opportunities in Korea, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m., April 7, at Building 1, Room 2305, Oakland Army Base. Topics will include assignment locations and tour obligations, overseas allowances and benefits, current openings, and application procedures. Target audience is permanent civilian employees eligible for GS-9 and above, VRA eligibles, and family members. If you are interested in attending, contact Cindy Oliver, (415) 561-5750, or Maria Gutsfeld, (415) 561-2119, by close of business March 30.





New consumer rules help travelers

By Evelyn D. Harris

American Forces Information Service

The Department of Transportation is strengthening consumer protection rules for air travelers. From now on, airlines must list in their monthly on-time performance tallies all flights delayed or canceled due to mechanical reasons.

The department also now requires tour operators who promote travel packages such as the Super Bowl to actually have tickets for the events or a firm contract for them. Operators who can't deliver must refund the entire tour price within three days. Tour operators should not increase the price of a tour package within 10 days of departure.

If the package price increases by more than 10 percent, the consumer may cancel and receive a full refund. The rules apply to any sporting, cultural, religious or other special event for which event admission is advertised as part of the tour. Transportation officials remind consumers that if tickets are not specifically mentioned as a tour feature, they are probably not included.

The department is proposing increasing compensation for lost baggage on domestic flights. The current limit is \$1,250. Proposed rules would increase that to \$1,850 early this year.

Transportation spokesperson Hoyt Decker said airlines can pay consumers less unless customers can prove their lost or mishandled valuables are worth the limit. People who don't save receipts may have difficulty proving their case. To be safe, he advised travelers to pack valuables, essential toiletries and medicines, and breakables

in their carry-on luggage. Fortunately, he said, most misplaced luggage is ultimately found. Travelers should mark bags on the inside and outside with their name, address and telephone number.

The Department of Transportation publishes two booklets with useful information for travelers. "Fly Rights" (Item 133B, \$1.75) explains your rights as an airline passenger and provides money-saving tips. "Fly Smart" (Item 575B, free) provides flight safety tips. To order either, send your name, address, item number and payment to:

R. Woods

Consumer Information Center
Pueblo, CO 81009.

Make checks out to the Consumer Information Center.

Here are some tips from the booklets. Note that in some instances, policies and rules for official government travel are different from this information.

Getting the best fare

* Plan ahead and be flexible -- the earlier you book your flight and the more open you are to traveling on different days and at different times, the better the chance of a good deal.

* Be sure of your plans. Many discount fares are nonrefundable.

* After purchasing your ticket, check back with your agent or airline -- if the fare goes down, the airline may refund the difference (although it is not required to do so).

Flights and tickets

* Having a ticket doesn't mean your reservation is confirmed -- only an OK in the status box means your seat is reserved.

* A direct or through flight may still require a stop or even a plane change, so make sure you know in advance.

* The airline may cancel your remaining flights if you miss one leg of your flight, so be sure to call and confirm to avoid unpleasant surprises.

Overbooking

* If your flight is overbooked, you may voluntarily give up your seat and negotiate with the airline representative to get a later flight and compensation such as free flight or an upgrade to first class.

* If you are involuntarily "bumped" from your flight and you met the airline's check-in deadlines, you could be eligible for monetary compensation or free flights if your replacement flight arrives more than an hour after your scheduled flight.

* If you check in early, you will be less likely to get bumped.

Safety

* Aircraft vary, so watch the safety demonstration, study the card in the seat pocket and count the number of rows between you and the exit.

* Wear low-heeled shoes, not sandals, and comfortable clothes made from natural fibers -- synthetics could melt in the heat of a cabin fire.

* Wear your seat belt at all times, even when "fasten seat belt" light is off.

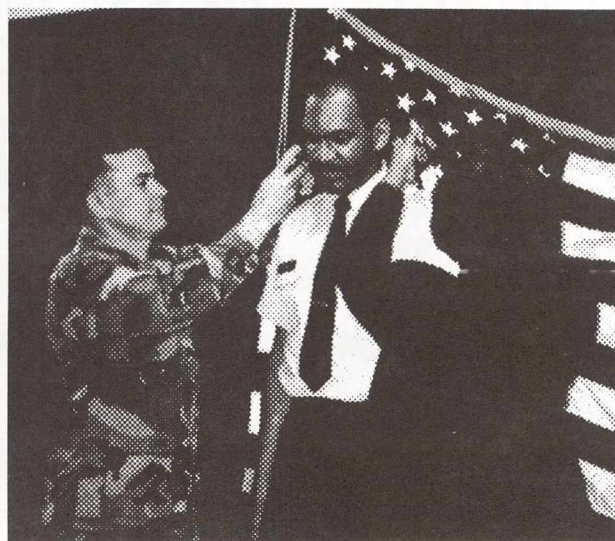
* Put heavier items under the seat rather than in the overhead bin to reduce the chance of injuries during turbulence.

* It's both dangerous and illegal to take flammables, loaded firearms and other hazardous materials aboard.

FOCUS ON DCSOPS



Eric Seals, Sr., (second from left) was recently promoted to the rank of master sergeant. Col. Lisle Brook (left), Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, was assisted in the promotion by Seals' wife, Bernice, and son, Eric, Jr.



Off with the old and on with the new! Col. Lisle Brook and Bernice Seals promote Eric Seals, Sr.



PHOTOS BY SERGEANT 1ST CLASS
LAURA RONAN, INTELLIGENCE AND
SECURITY DIVISION, DCSOPS

Right: Seals receives a
congratulatory kiss from
Bernice as Eric, Jr., looks
on.

Emergency Relief campaign begins

By Maj. Mike Koplin
Special to the Star Presidian

Sixth U.S. Army begins its annual Army Emergency Relief (AER) fundraising campaign April 3.

AER is a financial assistance program that has helped thousands of active duty, reserve and retired soldiers and their families since its inception as a nonprofit organization in 1942.

The program offers financial assistance during times of emergency. As a secondary mission, AER also helps Army families with the costs of post-secondary vocational training, preparation for acceptance by service academies and undergraduate level education for dependent children.

As noted by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Gordon L. Sullivan, AER "enables us to demonstrate our commitment by making funds available for assistance to soldiers who encounter financial emergencies.

"Last year, despite our drawdown, AER assisted more than 55,000 soldiers with more than \$33 million," Sullivan said.

Sullivan added that, "As we prepare for the 1995 campaign, I seek your personal interest and involvement to ensure that all soldiers are made aware of AER's mission and record and are given the opportunity to contribute. Let's make our 1995 campaign for AER a success."

Contributions to AER through this year's campaign will help ensure that the tradition of "the Army taking care of its own" continues.

AER provides assistance to the military community in three ways:

- no-interest loans.
- grants given where repayment would create a hardship.
- a combination of the two when partial payment is possible.

AER also has an educational assistance

program to help pay for undergraduate study. That aid is available to soldiers and their spouses and dependent children. This secondary program also provides a limited number of scholarships to dependent children. Information concerning the scholarship program is available through your local AER office and directly from the AER national headquarters.

AER assistance is available to four categories of people: soldiers on extended active duty and their dependents; Army members of reserve components on continuous active duty for more than 30 days, and their dependents; retired soldiers and their dependents; and widows and orphans of soldiers who died while on active duty or after retirement.

Sixth U.S. Army's campaign will run from April 3 to May 3. For information, contact Maj. Mike Koplin, AER Action Officer, at (415) 561-2067.

With U.S. Savings Bonds, the more you give, the more you receive.



Every day, we pass a little of ourselves on to the next generation. When it's best to go fishing, which bait to use, how to cast, what makes a keeper. The knowledge that we give stays with them forever. And we hope we've made their lives a little richer for the learning.

Giving U.S. Savings Bonds also passes an important lesson on to the future generation. Bonds can teach our children how to save, how interest grows and how a small investment can help make their dreams come true.

Buying U.S. Savings Bonds contributes to a solid and secure America for generations to come. What a great way for you to say, "I believe in your future!"

Bonds are as easy to buy as they are to give. Buy them at half their face value through your local bank. U.S. Savings Bonds are like friendships — the longer they're kept, the more they're worth.

So share the tradition of U.S. Savings Bonds. They're the gift that gives back more than you've given.



A public service of this newspaper

Get moving! Tips to make PCS moves easier for Presidians

Moving season on the Presidio will be a little bit different than in past years and slightly more intense as the Sixth U.S. Army inactivates and other activities move to different operating bases. As most Presidio residents are aware, the U.S. Navy sends over a Personal Property Counselor from Alameda every Monday to Building 204 to help families move their household goods. In response to the Sixth Army inactivation, Fort Lewis is sending personnel to cut movement/PCS orders during the week of April 3-6. As a result, transportation counselors from the Navy Personnel Property Division (Alameda) will make a special trip to the Presidio and be available for three days: April 6, 7 and 10. Depending upon the demand, the Property Division will consider sending a counselor over to the Presidio twice a week into the months of May and June.

Outlined below is a checklist of things to do to begin the process.

Get orders first! The first step in arranging your shipment of household goods and unaccompanied baggage is receiving permanent change of station (PCS) orders. Once in receipt of orders, schedule a counseling session with the Personal Property Office as soon as possible, but not later than 30 days prior to your desired pick-up date. Knowing the date when you want your household goods picked up at the counseling session will speed up the routing and booking of your shipment.

Counseling session sign up. Those residing on or near the Presidio can arrange for a counseling session by going to the Housing Office (Building 204) and signing up on the "sign up" sheet. As mentioned above a counselor visits the Presidio of San Francisco every Monday to conduct counseling sessions. If the time and location are not convenient, the Personal Property Office offers the same service at other locations within the San Francisco Bay area (e.g., Travis Air Force Base, Coast Guard Island-Alameda, Naval Air Station Alameda).

Counseling session checklist.

1. Seven copies of orders per shipment.
2. Proof of dependents (e.g., DEERS, ID cards).
3. A Power of Attorney or Letter of Authorization, notarized or countersigned by a commissioned officer if someone other than the service member will be signing documents on the service member's behalf.
4. Information on prior shipments if household goods will need to be moved from other location (e.g., storage sites or other residences).
5. Registration for any motorized vehicle, motorcycle, boat or trailer, and make, caliber and serial numbers of any firearms being shipped.
6. For Home of Record/ETS moves, a copy of your enlistment contract. Call first to determine exact requirements.
7. Make arrangements for child care prior to the appointment.

To speak with a Personal Property Counselor, call 1-800-752-3814.

(Presidio of San Francisco Sub-Installation Commander)

Fire prevention tips

In the wake of recent home fires that have claimed property and lives, the American Red Cross Bay Area urges home fire safety and prevention. Red Cross stands ready to respond 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to any disaster, large or small. In February alone, Red Cross volunteer Disaster Action Teams provided for the immediate disaster related needs of more than 60 families burned out of their homes in the Bay Area. Simple steps can be taken by families and individuals to help prevent home fires and to help ensure that if a fire does occur lives will not be lost. American Red Cross Bay Area offers the following tips:

IF FIRE STRIKES:

- Always crawl low under smoke.
- Don't open the door if it's hot. Find another way out.
- Stop, drop and roll if your clothing is in flames. Cover your face and mouth with your hands while rolling.
- Tackle to the ground anyone running with burning clothing; help them roll.
- Get out and stay out. Don't spend time gathering clothes or valuables.
- Call the fire department from a neighbor's home.

HOW TO PREVENT AND PREPARE FOR A FIRE:

- Install smoke detectors and **make sure they operate properly (replace batteries annually).**

-- Purchase a fire extinguisher (an A-B-C type which is useful on all fires).

-- Place a collapsible ladder on the upper floor of your home.

-- Keep a whistle in each bedroom to awaken sleeping persons.

-- Plan two escape routes out of each room.

-- Keep matches and lighters away from small children.

-- Learn how to turn off gas and electric systems at main switches.

-- Repair defective electrical wires and leaky gas connections.

-- Check your electrical outlets - **DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS.**

-- Consider installing home sprinklers.

-- Make a list of your personal property and valuables.

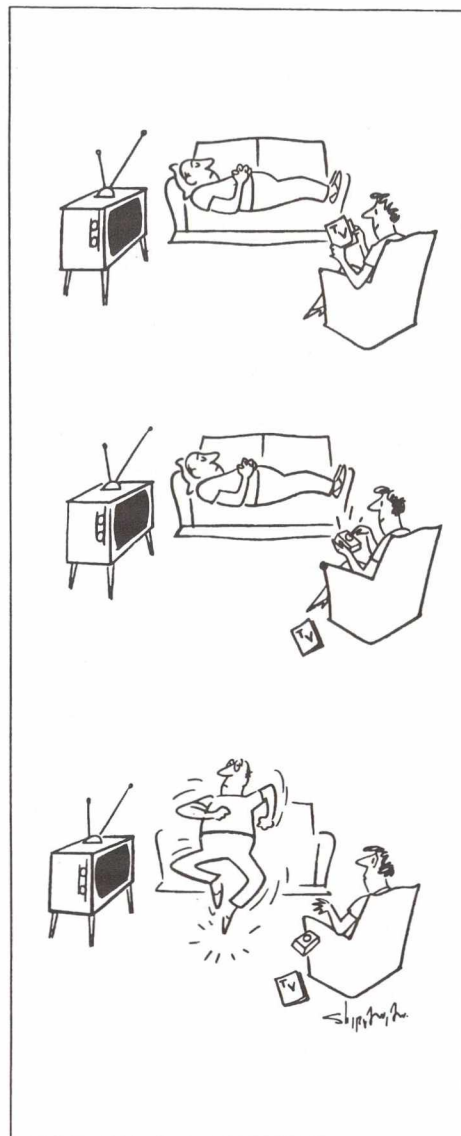
-- Store important documents in a fire-proof box or safety deposit box.

-- Purchase renter's or homeowner's insurance.

-- Take a Red Cross First Aid and CPR class to be prepared to assist any injured.

The time to prepare for a fire is now, before it happens. The need is real, home fires not only destroy property, but cost lives. For information and free preparedness materials, contact your local Red Cross office.

(American Red Cross Bay Area Office of Public Affairs)



Shipwreck survey begun by Park Service

An archeological survey for shipwrecks is now underway at Ocean Beach, part of Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), for more than 25 historical vessels that have grounded on the three-mile stretch of the Park's beach south of Cliff House. This beach survey will locate additional wreck sites before the beginning of the design of a major dune stabilization project by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and City of San Francisco.

Two vessels, the KING PHILIP (1856) and REPORTER (1876), have been located previously at Ocean Beach and placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

A state-of-the-art survey system to detect buried materials has been assembled for this project with support of private-sector company sponsors making the project cost-effective. The project to locate and examine the wrecks beneath the sands of Ocean Beach

is a cooperative effort between the National Park Service's Submerged Cultural Resources Unit and the California State University at Sonoma Department of Anthropology.

The excavation system's computer software was developed by Sandia Research Associates of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Also assisting with this project are two Silicon Valley companies, Trimble Navigation Ltd., supplying the Global Positioning equipment that produces accurate locations based on satellite signals, and Geometrics, Inc., providing use of a cesium magnetometer that detects earth's magnetic field.

This new magnetometer, the G-858 Cesium Magnetometer, is the fastest and most sensitive magnetometer yet developed and is the centerpiece of the sophisticated survey system. The G-858 detects minute changes in the earth's magnetic field that

reveal presence of iron objects, many of which are associated with old shipwrecks. Its integrated computer allows rapid generation of accurate magnetic maps that show the archeologists where to dig.

The National Park Service survey team mounted the G-858 Cesium Magnetometer on a 12-foot long sled that is being towed behind a small, six-wheeled green GGNRA park maintenance vehicle, called the "Gator." It is the first vehicle installation of the new magnetometer, allowing archeologists to survey an area in a few days that would have taken months with any other method.

For additional follow-up information, please contact Larry Murphy, Project Director, NPS Submerged Cultural Resources Unit, Santa Fe, New Mexico, at (505) 988-6750.

(Golden Gate National Recreation Area)

The back page



Photo courtesy of Lt. Col. Joseph Thomas

"O sole mio . . ."

A barbershop quintet serenaded the guests at the recent "Single Soldiers' Pasta Dinner" sponsored by the Sixth U.S. Army Chaplain's Office and Army Community Services at the Community Activities Center. Presidians gathered to share in lots of delicious, potluck-style food and fellowship.

AUSA Golf Tournament

Remember, golf is a game of fundamentals. If you're having swing problems go back to the fundamentals of grip, stance and posture. Fix the fundamentals and the rest will fall in to place. Another fundamental is that you get out and support the 14th Annual AUSA Golf Tournament on April 7. This is a great tournament played on the historic, challenging, and scenic Presidio Army Golf Course. Tee off is at 8:15 a.m., with a shotgun start. The format is a four-player handicap team scramble and is open to all military and civilians. Entry fee of \$100 includes a continental breakfast, greens fee, golf cart, lunch, drinks on the course, tee gifts, and prizes. Some of the most prominent hotels, restaurants and businesses have donated fabulous prizes and an automobile awaits a hole-in-one. Tournament proceeds fund programs to support local soldiers and their families. Come out and join us for a great day of golf and fun. For more information please contact Mark Crenshaw at (415) 561-2971 (work) or (415) 931-9035 (home).

Agencies may choose pass/fail evaluations for civilians, says OPM

The Office of Personnel Management wants to give agencies more flexibility in the performance appraisal system.

Under proposed rules, agencies could choose to have as few as two ratings (pass-fail) or as many as five rating elements. They could also continue with the current ratings of "outstanding," "exceeds fully successful," "successful," "minimally successful" and "unacceptable."

The new system would affect General Schedule employees, including supervisors and managers previously evaluated under the now-defunct Performance Management and Recognition system. Blue collar employees would also come under the system. Members of the Senior Executive Service would not be included.

"Successful performance management programs should be like snowflakes. That

is, no two should look exactly alike," said OPM director Jim King. He said the proposal allows agencies to design systems that fit their own organizational cultures. However, he added, OPM is ready to support and consult with agencies as they design appraisal and award systems.

The proposal implements several recommendations of the Clinton administration's National Performance Review. The review said early employee involvement is critical to the success of any performance management system. The proposal suggests agencies involve employees and their representatives in designing their systems.

Among other changes, the new rules would allow agencies to broaden appraisals and awards to include teams. They would remove the requirement that OPM approve plans for awards, quality step increases and

within-grade increases. OPM would still approve performance appraisal systems. Agencies would still have to comply with regulatory requirements and some OPM guidelines. However, there will be fewer regulations.

Last year, OPM issued rules allowing supervisors to give employees time off as a performance reward. Most rules on time-off awards would be deleted, including requiring a Standard Form 50 for all time-off awards. Time-off could not be converted to cash, however.

The new rules would not change the way performance ratings affect an employee's retention standing in a reduction in force. The rules appeared in the Jan. 27 *Federal Register*. The comment period ends March 28.

(American Forces Information Service)

Star Presidian

Vol. 38, No. 7

Published for the Presidio of San Francisco military community

April 7, 1995



Hoo Ah!

The Headquarters Commandant Team emerged victorious in the recent 3-On-3 basketball tournament here. The winning roundballers were: (front row, left to right) Ronald Simmons, Sergeant 1st Class Rick Burila, Master Sgt. Don Banks. Back row, left to right: Staff Sgt. Charles Davis, Staff Sgt. Donnell Warren, Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wyatt, Sergeant 1st Class Anthony Handy. (Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Donnell Warren)

Presidio MPs deploy to Haiti

By Pvt. 2 James C. Baber
Special to the Star Presidian

This January, the Presidio Military Police Detachment sent five soldiers (Pfc. Eric Aho, Pfc. Michael Barbieri, Pfc. Aaron Hall, Pfc. Donald Saucier, and Pvt. 2 Eunice Meadoux) to Fort Lewis, Wash., where they joined the 66th Military Police Company on a deployment to Haiti.

On Jan. 16, deploy is exactly what they did! One plane ride took them from the cold, damp air of Tacoma, Wash., to the unforgiving heat of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. It is in this heat that they will take on a variety of missions during a stay of up to six months before being replaced by an MP company

from Fort Drum, New York's, 10th Mountain Division.

Although the missions give the Presidio MP's and the 66th MP Company could change to fit different situations, they will mainly provide customs support to soldiers in theater, setting up checkpoints, patrolling and possibly providing security for visiting dignitaries. Even though these missions, and the deployment itself, were all new to the volunteers from the Presidio, they have managed to keep a positive attitude toward such changes.

"In a strange kind of way I like it here . . . we get to use a lot of combat support training," Hall commented in a letter to a

friend.

The optimism carried by the five MP's in Haiti has not only helped them overcome change, it has given them the motivation needed to do their job well.

In a letter to Maj. Corbin Lee, Presidio Provost Marshal, 66th MP Battalion commander Lt. Col Brittain Mallow, spoke highly of the Presidio soldiers:

"Your five soldiers continue to do well with our unit in Haiti . . . they are good soldiers -- working hard in that difficult place."

We here at the Presidio MP Detachment had no doubt that our soldiers would do well in Haiti. We would like to wish them the best of luck, along with a safe and speedy return to all of their friends and family. Good luck, guys!



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH U.S. ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94129-7000



AFKC-ME

123 MAR 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 1995 Savings Bond Campaign

1. Sixth U.S. Army's Annual U.S. Savings Bond Campaign is scheduled from 14 March to 1 May 1995.
2. Through war and peace, for over half a century, the U.S. Savings Bond Program has given Americans the means for planning their financial security. U.S. Savings Bonds have consistently provided among the highest rates of return of any "guaranteed" investment available. With recently added tax deferment and avoidance incentives for retirement or education purposes, Savings Bonds remain one of the most attractive long-term investments available. Because of their consistent rate of return and a guarantee as solid as America itself, it makes sense to invest in America with U.S. Savings Bonds.
3. In these tough economic times we tend to forget to plan for the future. In essence, we sacrifice the future by spending all we earn today. Wise people, however, make the tough decisions and sacrifice today to ensure a better tomorrow.
4. I encourage all the soldiers and civilians in the Presidio of San Francisco community to take advantage of the tremendous opportunity offered by investing in U.S. Savings Bonds. Saving this way is safe and easy through the payroll savings plan. Make the tough choice and secure your future today with U.S. Savings Bonds.

Glynn C Mallory Jr

GLYNN C. MALLORY, JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

Star Presidian

This Army Funded Newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Star Presidian* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Sixth U. S. Army, or the Presidio of San Francisco, Calif. It is published every other Friday using desktop publishing by the Presidio of San Francisco Public Affairs Office, Building 38, Room 113, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., 94129, phone (415) 561-2192. Circulation: 2,000.

EDITORIAL STAFF

Commanding General.....Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory Jr.
Public Affairs Officer.....James L. Hudgins
Chief, Command Information.....Sharon E. Everett-Roles

Presidio Pulse

TRICARE update

All individuals PCSing this summer -- please remember to disenroll from TRICARE. Disenrollment must be done in person at Letterman's TRICARE Service Center. This can be done up to two weeks in advance (i.e., leaving the Bay Area on July 1, then on June 16 tell the TRICARE personnel to make the disenrollment date effective at midnight on June 30). For questions or information, please call TRICARE at (415) 561-0650.

Exploratorium hours

The Exploratorium, San Francisco's museum of science, art, and human perception, will be open for the entire family to enjoy during the Easter holidays and spring break, from April 10 to April 17, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. The Exploratorium is located inside the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco's marina District. The Exploratorium is wheelchair accessible.

Casting call

So you want to be in the movies? Volunteer as an extra in an AIDS march scene for Columbia Pictures' high tech thriller "The Net," starring Sandra Bullock and Dennis Miller. The shoot takes place from 2:30 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday. Sign up your friends and family today. Call, write, or fax your address and phone number to American Red Cross bay Area, 1550 Sutter Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Phone (415) 202-07090 or fax (415) 202-0622, attention Paula Rampe.

Change management

The Army Community Service "Change Management Workshop" can help relieve stress, teach you tools to help you cope with change quickly, and help you and your family recognize the emotions and feelings of change. Managers are welcome to call Adrienne Vanasco at (415) 561-3612 to schedule dates for individual offices.

Job Fair

The fifth annual Veterans Job Fair take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., April 25, at the Fort Mason Conference Center, Building A, in San Francisco. The fair is sponsored by the San Francisco Veterans Employment Committee, and is open to the public. There is no admission fee. Bring your resume and be prepared to interview. For information, call Tony Esperanza at (415) 749-7571 or Michael Allen at (415) 749-7545.

CHAMPUS News

Struggling to pay for your health care? If you use CHAMPUS benefits regularly this briefing is for you! Stop by for a 45-minute briefing, followed by a question and answer period, at one of the following dates and times: 1 p.m. today, Hamilton Field Fellowship Hall (adjacent to the Chapel); 1 p.m., April 13, Letterman U.S. Army Health Clinic, Executive Conference Room; 1 p.m., April 28, Hamilton Field Fellowship Hall. Aetna Government Health Plans representatives will be available at Hamilton to talk about the health care program options avail-

able to CHAMPUS eligibles, especially TRICARE Prime (a money-saving alternative to TRICARE Standard and Extra). Representatives at Letterman will discuss the same topics. No RSVP is required.

Zoo news

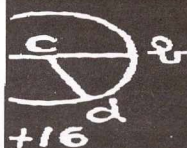
Northern California's largest zoological park, the San Francisco Zoo, includes the Feline Conservation Center (with endangered snow leopards), Gorilla World, the Primate Discovery Center, Koala Crossing, Otter River, the Lion House (with rare Sumatran and Siberian tigers) and, opening in May, the new Australian WalkAbout, a two-acre multi-species exhibit with gray and red kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies and emus. Other highlights include the Children's Zoo with barnyard animals, Insect Zoo, Zebra Train and antique carousel. The zoo is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Sloat Boulevard and the Pacific Ocean. Call (415) 753-7080 for information.

Maintenance Orders

The Navy Public Works maintenance contractors are available to respond to your maintenance and repair needs. All non-emergency type work will be evaluated and responded to if resources are available. Please contact the Service Order Desk at (415) 556-3643/3695 or come by Building 1802 for assistance. For those repairs or maintenance-related issues that are outside your quarters (e.g., signs, streetlights, flooding, electrical outages), call the National Park Service Work Order Desk at (415) 556-1802.

A a B b C c D d E e F f G g H h I i J j K k L l M m N n O o

April is
Mathematics Education
Month



$$8 - 4 + 2 = 6$$
$$12 \div 6 = 2$$

$$x + \frac{1}{2} = \frac{3}{2}x = 12$$
$$\frac{1}{2}x = 4$$
$$x = 8$$

Presidio Happenings



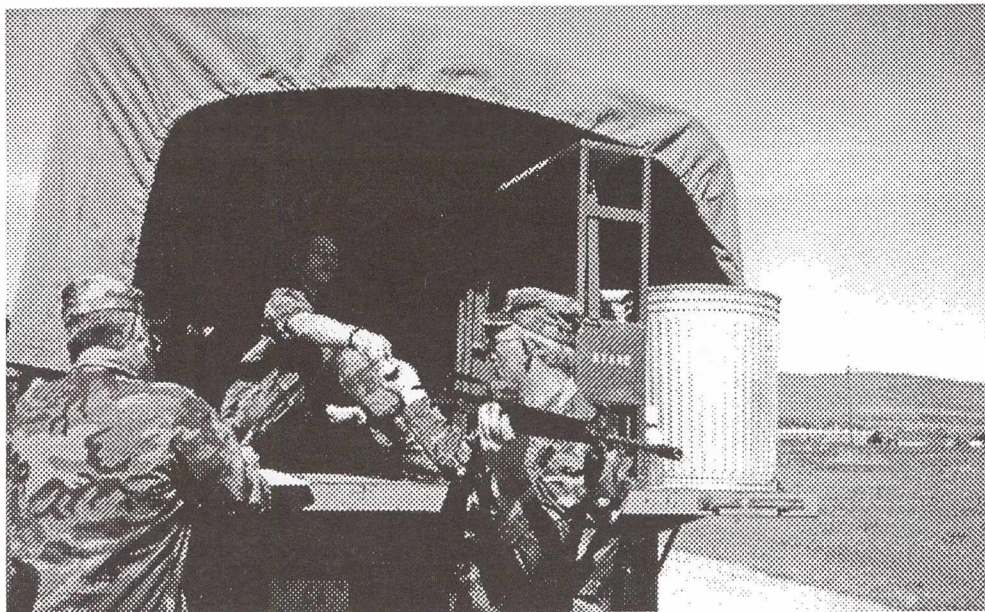
Staff Sgt. Juan Navarro (left), of Readiness Group Presidio of San Francisco, was re-enlisted by RGPSPF commander Lt. Col. Tom Cavender. (Photo courtesy of Readiness Group, Presidio of San Francisco)

Robert Horvath (right), also of Readiness Group Presidio of San Francisco, was promoted to the rank of major by Maj. Gen. Robert Frix, Sixth U.S. Army deputy commanding general for active component. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Juan Navarro)



Film star and diplomat Shirley Temple Black was the keynote speaker at a recent "Legends of Broadcasting" luncheon held at the Presidio Community Club. (Photo by Dixie L. Porter)

California Army National Guard at Camp Parks



Issuing weapons to members of Headquarters (-), State Area Command, California Army National Guard, March 29 at Camp Parks, California, for classes

Headquarters (-), State Area Command, California Army National Guard, held its annual training at Camp Parks, Calif, from March 29 - April 2.



Even in the field, Sergeant 1st Class Ben Delaney, platoon sergeant, has paperwork to keep up with.

*Photos by Dixie L. Porter
Sixth Army Public Affairs
and Calif. National Guard*



One of the common task training projects was a class in camouflage. To clean off the camouflage, we used cleansing cream.



Loading supplies and equipment April 2, for the return trip after successful annual training at Camp Parks.

Presidio swimmers run grueling match against SF team

By Maj. Mike Koplin
Special to the Star Presidian

The San Francisco Parks and Recreation (SFPR) swim team from the SAVA pool were up to the challenge March 25 as they swam against the Presidio. Although the Presidio swimmers have made steady progress this season, they could not match the speed of SAVA.

The Presidio swimmers knew going in that they were up against some of the best swimmers in the city. SFPR is affiliated with the United States Swimming Association and competes for national rankings. Their swimmers train six days a week for two hours each day. The Presidio swimmers train two days a week and only one hour a day. Considering those differences, our swimmers did very well.

Overall, the Presidio won 14 first place ribbons. Two first place ribbons were won in individual breast stroke events by Brandon Koplin (age 13-15) and Kristi Koplin (age 7-8). The other twelve first place winners were in the 7-8 year old backstroke relay, the 11-12 year old backstroke relay, and the 11-12 year old breast stroke relay. Forty-six second place, 32 third place, 20 fourth place, 11 fifth place, and six sixth place ribbons were also won by Presidio swimmers.

Assistant Coach Nina Kannett and all of the great parent volunteers who help time record, and produce ribbon awards at swim meets are all greatly appreciated!

The following awards were won by individuals:

13-15 year olds



Photo by Maj. Mike Koplin

Sabrina Campbell: three 3rd, one 4th, one 5th.

Julia Dakin: two 2nd, two 3rd.

Abby Jensen: four 3rd, one 4th.

Brandon Koplin: one 1st, two 2nd, two 3rd, one 4th, one 5th.

Natalie Larcier: three 3rd, one 4th, one 5th.

Jessica Marek: two 2nd, two 3rd.

Lara Mathers: two 3rd, one 5th.

Nathan McGarity: two 2nd, one 3rd, two 4th.

Slim Merila: two 2nd, two 3rd, one 4th.

Candice Shino: one 5th.

11-12 year olds

Jessica Banks: two 1st, two 2nd, one 4th, two 5th.

Grant Davis: one 1st, four 2nd, one 4th.

Cory Jensen: one 1st, one 2nd, two 3rd, one 4th.

Robby Lewis: one 1st, two 2nd, one 3rd.

Cynthia Pace: one 1st, two 2nd, one 3rd, one 4th, one 5th, one 6th.

Sarah Uldricks: one 1st, one 2nd, two 3rd, two 4th.

Monica Walsh: one 1st, two 2nd, one 3rd, one 5th, one 6th.

9-10 year olds

Jessica Andersen: four 2nd, one 4th, one 5th, one 6th.

Rebekah Koplin: six 2nd, one 3rd, two 4th, one 6th.

Veronica Marek: four 2nd, one 5th.

Jenna Sanders: four 2nd, one 5th, one 6th.

7-8 year olds

Kacie Anderson: one 1st, one 2nd, three 4th.

Kristi Koplin: three 1st, two 2nd.

Jennifer Shino: one 1st, one 2nd, three 3rd.

Tax Corner

More people now qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit, thanks to changes in the 1994 federal tax laws.

Internal Revenue Service officials said the changes raised the income level to qualify for the tax credit, making it available to more people. In addition, people without children can now use the credit.

Several other changes include the deletion of credit for health insurance premiums paid for a child and credit for a child born during the year.

The credit, explained Internal Revenue Service officials, is based on individual income and the number of qualifying children living with the taxpayer(s) for more than six months of the year or for the entire

year, if the child is a foster child.

Prerequisites to claim the credit, which could be worth up to \$2,528 if you have two or more children, or \$2,038 with one, include:

* A qualifying child, which is based on relationship, residency and age;

* Earned income of less than \$23,755 with one qualifying child and less than \$25,296 for two or more children;

* Must file the tax return for the 12-month period; and

* Live in the United States.

DoD again tried unsuccessfully to get the residency requirement lifted. However, IRS officials said, some service members may be able to claim the credit. If the service mem-

ber is living overseas but the family remained in the United States for at least six months of the year, they may qualify for the credit.

IRS officials said military personnel who are thinking of claiming the credit must remember to add all nontaxable income to their income. Items such as quarters allowance, basic subsistence allowance and combat pay are all considered income when it comes to determining this credit.

If you have a qualifying child, you have two options for claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit, said IRS officials. You may claim the credit when you file your federal

See TAX, page 8

Persian Gulf veterans' hotline established

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a toll-free number to inform Persian Gulf war veterans and their families of available medical care and other benefits. The toll-free information line is **1-800-PGW-VETS (1-800-749-8387)**.

"We want Persian Gulf veterans to know VA will take every initiative necessary to let them know how we can help them," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Jesse Brown said. "The toll-free number gives them quick access to timely information."

Persian Gulf war benefit specialists staff the helpline, headquartered at a new Persian Gulf Information Center in St. Louis. They are available weekdays from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m., Central time. The helpline includes a series of recorded messages en-

abling callers to obtain information 24 hours a day.

The helpline is part of a comprehensive outreach program established to assist Persian Gulf veterans. The Veterans Benefit Act of 1994 called for the helpline and a newsletter with information on research on illnesses of Persian Gulf veterans and their families and benefits available through VA. More than 39,000 veterans on VA's Persian Gulf registry receive the newsletter.

Also, information on VA benefits, medical care and research, including assistance for Persian Gulf veterans, is available on an electronic bulletin board system. Callers with a personal computer that includes a modem and a communications package can access VA-ONLINE. The toll-free number

is **1-800-US1-VETS (1-800-871-8387)**.

Brown sent a letter to Persian Gulf Registry members informing them VA will review claims previously filed by those who believe they were exposed to environmental hazards while serving in the Persian Gulf theater. The letter advised veterans to file claims if they believe they are entitled to benefits.

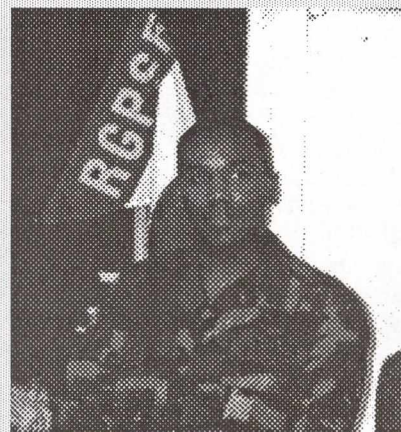
VA conducts briefings for active duty personnel, reservists and National Guard members. It also briefs separating service members as part of the Transition Assistance Program jointly sponsored by VA, DoD and the Department of Labor. Briefers will discuss medical services and benefits available to Persian Gulf veterans.

(American Forces Information Service)



"To support and defend . . ."

Sergeant 1st Class Anthony Handy (right) was reenlisted by Maj. Andy Gasparovic on a sunny day at Fort Point. (Photo by Sgt. Maj. Dennis McKay.)



Staff Sgt. Juan Navarro

The photograph of newly-promoted Master Sgt. Jeffery Hines which appeared in the Mar. 10 issue of the *Star Presidian* was a little dark; here is the real Master Sgt. Hines.

Park Service, FEMA reach occupancy agreement on PSF

The National Park Service has reached an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region IX, to continue occupancy in the Presidio of San Francisco, Robert S. Chandler, the Presidio General Manager, announced recently. FEMA has been operating out of the Presidio of San Francisco since 1982.

FEMA occupies approximately 70,000 square feet of office and warehouse space in two areas including the Main Post and Fort Scott. During the upcoming three-year tenancy, it is anticipated that FEMA's use and occupancy fee will be applied toward the restoration of the historic buildings which

they occupy.

The mission of FEMA is to reduce the loss of life and property by leading and supporting the nation in comprehensive, risk-based emergency management. FEMA Region IX is responsible for developing programs and activities relating to emergency preparedness, mitigation, and disaster response and recovery. The agency works closely with state and local governments, other Federal agencies, volunteer organizations, business and industry, and individual citizens, by funding emergency programs and providing technical guidance and training.

The Region IX office coordinates federal

emergency management programs for American Samoa, Arizona, California, Nevada, Guam, Hawaii, Micronesia, Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republics of Palau and Marshall Islands.

This tenancy is permitted and authorized by a Federal Interagency Agreement between the National Park Service and FEMA. For additional information on this tenancy please contact Don Neubacher, National Park Service, at (415) 556-0245, ext. 312, or Shirley Mattingly, Regional Director, FEMA, at (415) 923-7100.

(Golden Gate National Recreation Area)

The back page

April is Military Child Month

By **Adrienne Vanasco**
Special to the Star Presidian

Being a parent is stressful under ordinary circumstances. Problems with a spouse, family or job place additional stress on any parent and may make them less patient, understanding and creative with their children. Significant life changes can make things even worse. The closing of the Presidio has had a major impact on many of those who live and work here.

In order to handle stress, it is first necessary to recognize the stresses in our lives, and then try (to the best of our ability) to eliminate or reduce the causes. Some of the pressures in our lives cannot be avoided, but it is possible to relieve them.

Take time for yourself, even if it is only 30 minutes. Take a walk, read a book, take a hot bath, go somewhere without the kids, do something you would enjoy. Spend time with your spouse, just the two of you. Get reacquainted. Talk to your friends. Share your frustrations. Stress affects everyone and friends might have suggestions that would work for you. (Maybe they will even keep the kids overnight!)

Take a parenting class to learn new ways to deal with your children. Call (415) 441-KIDS, T.A.L.K Line (Telephone Aid in Living with Kids). For additional suggestions, call Army Community Service at

(415) 561-3612. Remember, no one taught us how to be parents!

Work with your stress. Don't take it out

on someone else. Remember, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month, and the Month of the Military Child.



TAX, continued from page 6

tax return or you may decide to spread it out over the year, receiving monthly payments.

If you decide to take it each month, you must fill out a new Form W-5, "Earned Income Credit Advance Payment Certificate," and give it to your employer. Remember, IRS officials stressed, if your situation changes and you no longer qualify for the credit, you must file a new Form W-5 to stop payment.

For the first time, individuals who don't have children may claim the Earned Income Tax Credit, said IRS officials. This is one change in the 1994 tax laws.

To claim the credit if you don't have children, you must meet certain prerequisites. These include:

- * You must be between the ages of 25 and 65;

- * You must have earned less than \$9,000;

- * You must have lived at least six months in the United States; and

- * You must not be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer.

You may be qualified to take this credit -- when you file your federal taxes or in monthly payments -- even if you owe no taxes and nothing was withheld from your income, said IRS officials. However, you must file a federal tax return to claim it, even if you otherwise don't have to file.

IRS Publication 596, *Earned Income Credit*, explains everything you need to know about claiming the credit. Two other

IRS publications may help you with the credit. They are IRS Publication 501, *Exemptions, Standard Deduction and Filing Information*; and Publication 503, *Child and Dependent Care Expenses*.

For free copies of these and other publications, call toll-free 1-800-829-3676 or write to:

IRS

Forms Distribution Center
P.O. Box 25866
Richmond, VA 23289.

Remember to check out this credit, said IRS officials. Many people who did not qualify before may be able to take this credit now. This is one credit many people forget to claim.

(American Forces Information Service)

Star Presidian

Vol. 38, No. 8

Published for the Presidio of San Francisco military community

April 21, 1995

Presidians with "drive"

ORE sponsors golf tournament



Sergeant 1st Class Tom Morey

By Sergeant 1st Class Tom Morey
Special to the Star Presidian

The Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE) golf tournament, held April 8, was the best I have played in my two and a half years at this paradise called the Presidio of San Francisco.

Tee-off times began at 11:30 a.m., coordinated and directed by Sergeant 1st Class Jim Harris and Chief Warrant 3 Lloyd Horn. The fee was within reach (\$5) and the weather was great. Many wanna-be pros showed and were scored using the Callaway method, which gave those of us with high handicaps a chance to have final scores just like the pros.

Some familiar faces were in attendance: Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., Command

Sgt. Maj. Otto Copeland, Col. Giles Crider, Lt. Col. (retired) Steve Fredericks, Lt. Col. Anne Buhls, Maj. Gerald Brown, Maj. Mark Crenshaw, Chief Warrant 3 Sean Karamath and Staff Sgt. (promotable) Jim Plyman came out to play. ORE participants included Maj. Mark Anderson, Maj. Greg Hengel, Capt. Mike Godfrey, Capt. Tim Collins, Capt. Coby Peterson, Capt. Patrick Prisco, Horn, Sergeant 1st Class Joe Sakaria, Sergeant 1st Class Walter Choi, Harris, Sergeant 1st Class Sydney Rundle, Staff Sgt. Sam Love (husband of ORE Sergeant 1st Class Sylvia Love) and me -- Sergeant 1st Class Tom Morey. Other dedicated divot removers included Sergeant 1st Class Brock McDonald, Sergeant 1st Class Richard Reneneger, George Battey, and Col. David Butcher.

Left: Tournament winner Staff Sgt. (promotable) Jim Plyman (left) accepts his first place trophy from Sergeant 1st Class Jim Harris, tournament chairman. Plyman also had the longest drive in the event. **Below:** One participant's clubs didn't seem to enjoy riding on the cart!



Staff Sgt. (promotable) Jim Plyman

Plyman clinched the tournament title with a scratch 78.

Helping with refreshments and keeping the golfers honest were family members Sam Love and Jeremy Horn, with help from Sergeant 1st Class Jack Huntington.

A good time was had by all and we're looking forward to the next tournament -- to be played at Fort Lewis, Wash., after "THE ORE" relocates.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, SIXTH U.S. ARMY
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94129-7000



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:
AFKC-CG

23 MAR 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: 1995 Army Emergency Relief (AER) Annual Fund Campaign

1. The Army Emergency Relief (AER) Fund Campaign is an annual charitable fund drive. AER is an organization dedicated to helping soldiers and their families in times of valid emergency financial need. Sixth U.S. Army will conduct its campaign during the period 3 April 1995 to 3 May 1995.
2. AER was founded in 1942 and has, since that time, helped millions of soldiers. More than 50,000 soldiers and their family members were assisted with more than \$33 million dollars during 1994. This was the highest amount in AER's 53-year history.
3. The Presidio of San Francisco's 1994 campaign raised \$37,943.50 in voluntary contributions from active duty and retirees. However, assistance to soldiers and family members during that same period totalled \$88,884.20.
4. While the program is voluntary, I strongly encourage your enthusiastic support to continue the AER tradition of helping the Army take care of its own.

Encls

Glynn C Mallory, Jr.

GLYNN C. MALLORY, JR.
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
A

Star Presidian

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Presidio Pulse

Job Fair

The fifth annual Veterans' Job Fair take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday at the Fort Mason Conference Center, Building A, in San Francisco. The fair is sponsored by the San Francisco Veterans Employment Committee, and is open to the public. There is no admission fee. Bring your resume and be prepared to interview. For information, call Tony Esperanza at (415) 749-7571 or Michael Allen at (415) 749-7545.

Cinco de Mayo Parade

Plenty of kidding around is planned for the 28th annual Cinco de Mayo Festival and Parade, April 29 and 30, in the city's historic Mission District. Following the theme, "In Honor of Our Children," the grand fiesta will focus on the importance of children and their contributions to the community.

The weekend-long Cinco de Mayo festival at Civic Center Plaza, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., opens with a dramatic Aztec-inspired ceremony. At the Children's Health and Education Circle, parents and children learn together at exhibits and demonstrations run by health care specialists, school and college representatives, and career counselors. Carnival rides and a play area are on site for all ages to enjoy.

"Banda Music," the latest music craze to sweep Mexico, hot new salsa sounds and the soulful melodies of mariachi bands will fill the air. Traditional folkloric dancers with their colorful costumes will perform for audiences throughout the weekend. For those who want to get in on the action, there will be lessons in the "quebradita," a new dance from Mexico that is similar to the lambada.

As for food, there are authentic antojitos (appetizers): carne asada (tasty grilled beef), carnitas (spicy grilled pork), tacos and burritos slathered in guacamole sauce and spicy salsa. Admission to the Cinco de Mayo Festival is \$4 per day, per person. Kids under 12 are free.

The popular Cinco de Mayo Parade kicks off at 11 a.m. on April 30. The route starts at 24th and Bryant streets and concludes at 14th Street. Eight parade grand marshals will be selected from four elementary schools in the mostly Latino neighborhood. The students, selected by their academic accomplishments and contributions to the community, will wave to the crowds from a custom-designed float. Dozens of colorful parade units will follow.

Festival organizers at the Mission Economic Cultural Association recommend that attendees take public transportation to the festivities. (BART to 16th or 24th Street stations. Muni lines #14, #22, #26, #48, #49.)

The Cinco de Mayo celebration commemorates the Battle of Puebla, Mexico, on May 5, 1862, when a small, poorly equipped Mexican army defeated the powerful French Napoleonic army.

Zoo Stroller Derby

Creative moms and active little ones can join forces and participate in the First Annual San Francisco Zoo Stroller Derby and Little People's Walk on May 6. The event, which commemorates Mother's Day, is not a traditional race or endurance test, but a fun family event featuring a leisurely walk/stroll through San Francisco Zoo grounds. Registrants are encouraged to dress up their stroller and outfit the kids to be eligible for awards and prizes such as a Graco stroller and a \$500 shopping spree at Mervyn's. Registration fee is \$12 for one adult and one child, \$4 for each additional child and \$8 for each additional adult. (Group discount rates available on 10 or more reservations.) Registration includes refreshments and entertainment. Proceeds from Stroller Derby benefit the San Francisco Zoo's wildlife conservation and education programs, and major renovation projects. For information, call (415) 753-7128.

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Holocaust Memorial

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust and the liberation of Nazi concentration camps, a memorial service will take place at 3 p.m., April 30, at Temple Emanu-el (Lake and Arguello Streets). All military personnel and their families are invited to attend this city-wide event. For information, call Ruth Callmann at (415) 567-2830.

Town Hall Meeting

A Town Hall meeting will take place at 6 p.m., May 11, in the Presidio Community Club. All mayors, area coordinators, and Presidians are invited to attend.

Housing news

Presidians are now able to ease the process of clearing Army family housing. Occupants will select a cleaning team to clean their quarters permitting them to depart before the housing inspection. Once a cleaning team is selected and a contract signed, residents then provide either a money order or certified check (made out to the cleaning team) to a housing representative. Once the contract and check have been received by Housing, the occupant can depart. The Housing Office acts as an escrow agent. Once the quarters pass inspection, the cleaning team will receive their payment. For information, contact the Housing Office at (415) 561-3635.

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Evaluation team members fall from sky in 9,000-foot tandem jump

By Sergeant 1st Class Bill Comstock
Special to the Star Presidian

They're learning to fly without any wings! Three members of Sixth Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Mobilization Evaluation team CSS-1 felt the thrill of flying by tandem sky-diving. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Fred Smith, a recent retiree of CSS-1, parachute attached, guided Master Sgt. Alan Matsumoto, Sergeant 1st Class Joe Sakaria and Sergeant 1st Class Bill Comstock in the most exhilarating free-falling experience of their lives.

Ground support was provided by Sergeant 1st Class Walter Choi and Sergeant 1st Class Richard Hill.

In the small town of Acampo, just north of Lodi, the Parachute Center (23597 N. Highway 99, Acampo, Calif., 95220) provides the opportunity of a lifetime. At \$100



per jump (add \$35 for a video of your experience), you too can learn to fly without any wings. Smith or Bill Dause can be

reached at the Parachute Center, (209) 369-1128 to schedule your tandem jump.

What are you waiting for? The sky is the limit.

Quality of life issues studied, given high priority by DoD staff members

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Information Service

Without infantry, armies will not march. Without crews, ships cannot sail. Without someone to pull the trigger, weapons will not fire.

A military force is only as good as its people. That's why Secretary of Defense William J. Perry makes improving service members' living conditions a top priority.

"People are our most important resource," Perry said. "No weapons system is better than the people who operate and maintain it. It is important that we put people first in our priorities."

Perry has taken several steps to improve quality of life for the men and women of the armed forces and their families. He targeted a \$2.7 billion budget increase for military quality of life. The proposed 1996 budget calls for a 2.4 percent pay hike and fiscal 1996 and a 3.1 percent raise in fiscal 1997. Additional funding is earmarked for a 23 percent increase in child care spaces by 1997 and a 13 percent increase in housing dollars per active duty person.

Perry has also tasked a prestigious group of experts inside and outside the Pentagon to improve quality of life.

John O. Marsh Jr., former secretary of the Army, chairs the panel, called the Defense Science Board Task Force on Quality of Life. Joining him are 20 civilians and military retirees Perry selected. Another 10 will serve as counselors and technical advisers. All are experts in such areas as personnel, housing, construction and finance.

In addition to the external task force, Perry established an internal DoD Quality of Life Executive Committee comprised of Fred Pang, assistant secretary of defense for force management policy; Joshua Gotbaum, assistant secretary of defense for economic security; Alice Maroni, principal deputy comptroller; and 16 representatives from the Joint Staff and the four services.

The executive committee, according to Pang, will support the task force and "work to cut out the red tape in pulling together personnel and housing initiatives the secretary approves, and work on funding them. The intent is to get recommendations and take action this year in the budgeting process."

The task force will look at three areas: housing, personnel tempo or "perstempo," and community services, Marsh said.

"In the housing area the secretary has asked us to explore ways we might more effec-

tively involve the private sector," he said.

Perstempo refers to the rapidity and succession of deployments. This translates into the amount of time a service member is away from home, often leaving family members dependent on community services. The post-Cold War drawdown of forces and the number of contingency operations under way in places like Iraq, Somalia and Haiti have affected tempo, according to Marsh.

"The demands on our armed forces are different now that the Berlin Wall has come down," Marsh said. "You have a smaller force, but talk with the people in the force and they'll tell you they're going as hard as, or harder than, they were before with greater demands for deployment."

Perry said he recognizes quality of life can deteriorate when military people spend excessive amounts of time away from their home stations. "We are taking steps to ensure that DoD standards for lengths of deployments for services are maintained, except for unavoidable circumstances," he said. Perry asked the panel to consider how reserve components might alleviate or reduce tempo requirements on the active force.

See QUALITY, page 7

Kidwise

Help your child to a better self-image



You are a mirror for your children. Help them "see" the good in themselves through you.

- 1 Be positive. Recognize improvement and effort, not just accomplishment.

- 2 Learn to listen and talk with children in a respectful way.



3 Tell your children that you love them, no matter how old they are.



- 4 Allow children to share household responsibilities. It makes them feel competent.



- 5 Take care of yourself. Children learn to take care of themselves by watching you.

Month of the Military Child

Don't take stress out on your children!

By Adrienne Vanasco
Special to the Star Presidian

Being a parent is not easy! There is no question that having children brings joy to our lives, but it also adds stress. It is difficult enough without children to learn to recognize and deal with our own stress while trying to focus on and prioritize what we have to do. Our lives become more complicated when children are involved.

As a parent it is important to nurture and guide our children so that they become responsible, caring adults. We need to teach them ethical and moral values, a positive sense of self-esteem, how to communicate, and so much more. It is a big responsibility.

The way we discipline our children impacts their development. Overly harsh words can be emotionally abusing and undermine a child's sense of self worth. Corporal punishment can have negative effects. Studies show that spanking does not stop misbehavior. If it worked, we would only have to spank once. A violent act by a parent, such as hitting, slapping or spanking, teaches children to practice the same behavior on their dolls, pets, friends and eventually their own children.

Positive forms of discipline teach children they are still loved, even though they misbehave. Punishment, when used with rewards for good behavior, is an effective tool. Instead of spanking, try: a time out (this is recommended for younger children, with one minute for each year of the child's age); parental disappointment -- it does work; loss of privilege, i.e., no homework = no television; restitution, i.e., you got it dirty = you clean it up; and being grounded.

While disciplining your children: tell instead of yell and be assertive -- assume they will do what you tell them. Communicate clearly, because this will teach them to do the same. Touch the child before you talk, speak quietly to draw their attention, make eye contact, get down to their level. When your child is talking, listen. Pay attention and do not interrupt. Look at them, make eye contact and be aware of body language. Respond in a courteous tone and, lastly, invite them to tell you more.

Take some stress out of your life. Try to turn disciplining your child into a win-win situation. For additional suggestions, call Army Community Service at (415) 561-3612.



Sixth United States Army &
The Presidio of San Francisco



Will Honor

Presidio Volunteers and Military Spouses
at a

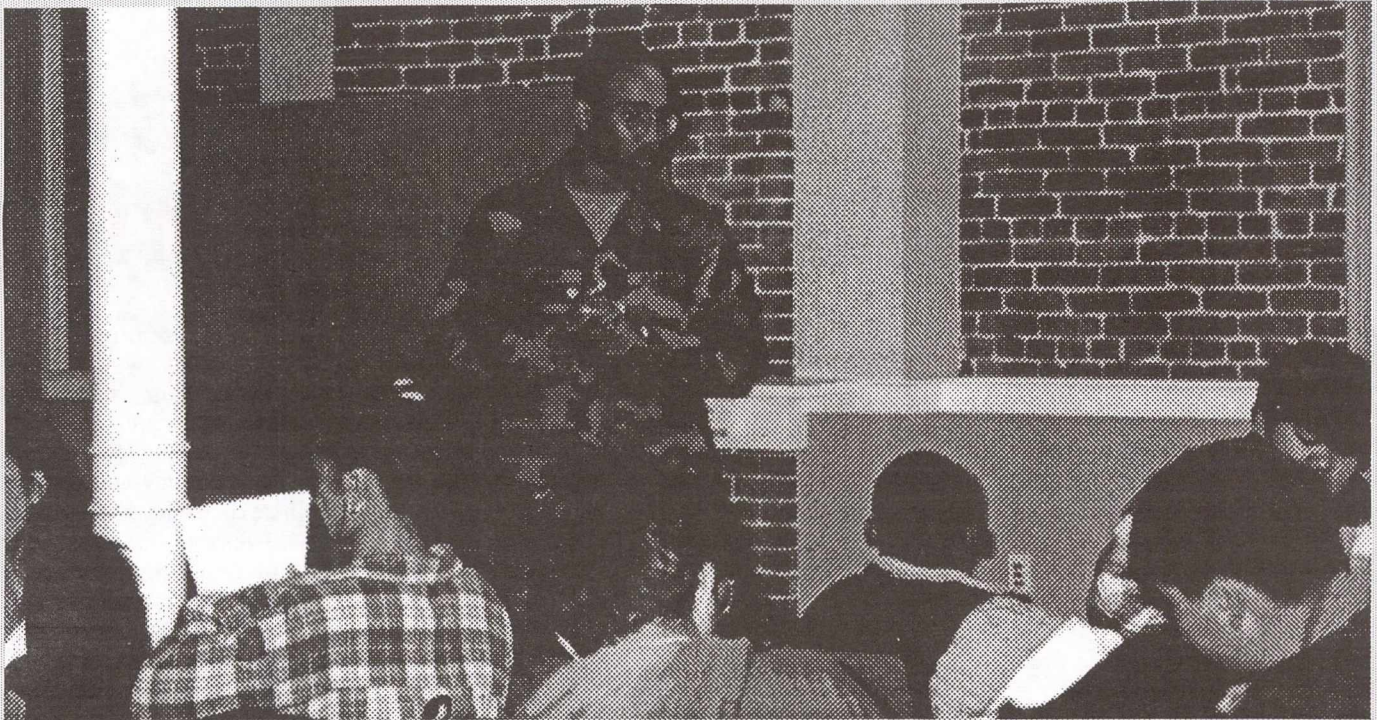
Retreat Ceremony

5 May 1995 1645 hrs

Pershing Square Flagpole

All volunteers, military spouses & their families
are invited to attend.

*Please join us at the Presidio Community Club immediately following the ceremony for the presentation of certificates and refreshments.



Sharon E. Everett-Roles

"What else would you like to know?"

Sergeant 1st Class Anthony Handy addressed a group of students from Thurgood Marshall Academic High School on April 9. Handy, along with Lt. Col Edward J. Erickson and Spc. Monique Barnes, answered questions about quality of life here on the Presidio of San Francisco. The students are working on a Presidio of San Francisco re-use classroom project.

DoD ceremony highlights Earth Day, environment

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Information Service

DoD efforts to preserve the environment will be highlighted in April during ceremonies marking the 25th Anniversary of Earth Day.

Secretary of Defense William J. Perry and Sherri W. Goodman, deputy undersecretary of defense for environmental security, presented Defense Environmental Security awards during a Pentagon ceremony April 17. Vice President Al Gore was invited to attend.

This year's award recipients received plaques made of recycled plastic, the results of a Navy program to recycle plastic aboard ship, according to Ann Davlin, Goodman's special assistant. Previous plaques were wood.

Awards were presented to the winners from 50 installations, teams and individuals nominated by their service or agency for achievements in natural resource conservation, environmental quality, pollution prevention, recycling and cleanup. Commemorative coins marking the occasion were also

distributed.

Perry is encouraging military installations to host open houses in honor of Earth Day tomorrow. DoD officials said this is an opportunity to demonstrate to local residents DoD's commitment to protecting human health and the environment.

"Ninety percent of the installations do something to commemorate Earth Day," Davlin said. "Tinker Air Force Base (Okla.), for example, literally empties out their largest hangar, and they demonstrate some of the environmental programs, some of the technology they're using. They just received a national award for their lead-paint abatement program, so they'll probably be demonstrating how that program works."

DoD is also distributing a publication to military installations entitled "Today: America's Forces Protect The Environment," which cites the department's environmental programs and accomplishments.

The publication features 12 successful programs ranging from Air Force development of an innovative technique to clean up contaminated soils at half the cost of con-

ventional methods to Marine Corps' co-existence at Camp Lejeune, N.C., with an endangered species, the red-cockaded woodpecker.

The publication was produced in conjunction with Renew America, a nonprofit organization that offers positive, constructive models to inspire communities, businesses and governments to meet environmental challenges, DoD officials said. The booklet contains statements by the heads of such groups as the National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation and Humane Society of the United States.

"Environmentalists rarely think of the Department of Defense as an ally, but almost unnoticed, U.S. military personnel have become major players in the battle to clean up and protect our environment," according to one statement. "We applaud the military's environmental successes."

(Editor's Note: The National Park Service is sponsoring numerous Earth Day activities at Crissy Field and around the Presidio. For information, please call (415) 556-3912.)

Re-use efforts lauded by DoD

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Barrett
American Forces Information Service

DoD officials continue promoting the economic and commercial opportunities available to civic leaders who reuse closed military bases.

DoD released a list of former bases making the transition to civic and commercial use. One example is Sacramento (Calif.) Army Depot, which closed in March. Even before the Army departed, Packard Bell and its subcontractors were in business on base. By year's end Packard Bell will create up to 3,000 jobs -- a number matching depot employment figures before closure.

Others at the depot include California Emergency Foodlink, a wholesale food provider for the homeless, and the California State University at Sacramento. Altogether the tenants expect to generate nearly 6,000 light industrial jobs over the next 15 to 20 years.

The Pease International Tradeport in Portsmouth, N.H., created more than 1,000 new

jobs. Formerly Pease Air Force Base, the Tradeport has 36 lessees occupying more than 800,000 square feet of building space that became available when the base closed four years ago. Major occupants include a regional passport and visa center, Business Express Airlines and a technical college. A British biotechnical company and a brewery are constructing multimillion-dollar facilities and plan to begin operations in about a year.

Myrtle Beach Air Force Base, S.C., closed in 1993. Developers recently purchased 1,043 acres to build a \$510 million golf resort and the Isle of America theme park. Slated for completion in 1997, the park will create 2,500 construction jobs and permanently employ 7,500 workers. The resort will also include a 27-hole golf course, a 20,000-seat amphitheater and two luxury hotels.

In Oscoda, Mich., local enterprise is recovering following the closure of Wurtsmith Air Force Base in 1993. An aircraft maintenance company created 200 jobs and occupies the base's seven hangars. It also runs

three industrial buildings and the former officers quarters. It is also planning a \$2.7 million expansion, which will add another 100 jobs.

Other businesses include a vinyl floor manufacturer, an electrical control panel assembler, and a builder of conveyor belt systems. In addition, the University of Michigan is establishing a national center to study the use of microbes in hazardous waste cleanup.

The reuse process continues this year in Philadelphia, where private firms are already using the naval shipyard -- more than a year before its September 1996 closing. Through a master lease agreement, the city is already taking over parts of the shipyard.

Garvey Machinery signed a sublease with the city recently and will expand operations as the Navy leaves. It will ultimately employ 150 workers -- most of them former shipyard employees. Westinghouse Electric Corp. plans to move in this fall, and the city is negotiating with two shipbuilders interested in starting shipyard ventures.

QUALITY, continued from page 4

Community services such as child care, commissaries, schools, and morale, welfare and recreation activities will be the third area the panel evaluates.

"The secretary has given us areas where he thinks we might be most effective," Marsh said. "For example, pay is not an issue the quality of life panel will address. However, we will address situations where there may be inequities, such as in allowances. There may be some other emergent issue we don't know about that impacts on quality of life, in which event we have the latitude to make recommendations."

DoD and service officials briefed the panel on the status of their quality of life programs at the first task force meeting in February.

"I anticipate a great deal of the work will occur in three subpanels -- one on housing, one on tempo and one on community service," Marsh said. "We anticipate traveling to various places in the United States and places where our people are deployed overseas. There will be an opportunity for people to make presentations on the needs of that particular area."

"We solicit comments and suggestions from people who can offer either dimensions of

the problem or, more importantly, solutions," he said. Those interested can write to:

DoD Task Force on Quality of Life
4000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-4000.

Marsh said he expects the panel to spend three to four months gathering information, holding hearings to identify and scope the problem, and discovering innovations and techniques to resolve problems. "Maybe something that's being done in one service can be crosswalked over to another service," he said.

The goal is to submit a report on the panel's findings and recommendations to Perry by the end of September, Marsh said. This will allow the secretary to use it in the next fiscal year's budgeting process, he added.

"We're looking at things near term, mid term and long term," he said. "many of the successful resolutions of these issues are long-term things. Capital improvements -- housing and construction -- take time to achieve."

Perry's emphasis on quality of life programs is crucial to their success, according to Marsh. "The panel's access to the secretary

provides a very fast response mechanism. Where obvious things need to be fixed, we can get his immediate attention. I know he'll be responsive."



The back page

Aetna files protest of CHAMPUS contract award to QualMed

San Diego, Calif. -- Aetna Government Health Plans announced it has filed a protest with the General Accounting Office in Washington, D.C., regarding the award of the \$2.5 billion CHAMPUS (Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services) contract, which covers more than 720,000 military beneficiaries in California and Hawaii. The Department of Defense awarded the contract to QualMed March 31.

"We have several legitimate issues on which to base a protest," said Robert H. Kaplan, vice president of Aetna Government Health Plans. "Of greatest concern to us is that a single company owns both the consulting firm that the government relied on to evaluate the proposals and a company that will receive a \$200,000,000 piece of the very same CHAMPUS contract. In addition, we also believe that the government has made serious errors in evaluating the proposal," added Kaplan.

With the filing of the protest by Aetna, an automatic "stay" goes into effect, preventing the formal transition to the new contractor (QualMed) until the protest process is concluded in a few months. Unless CHAMPUS takes the extraordinary step to override this stay, beneficiaries will not be forced to immediately switch doctors, hospitals, or other providers because Aetna will retain the contract at least until the decision on the protest is complete. In addition, beneficiaries will never have to switch doctors or hospitals if Aetna wins this protest.

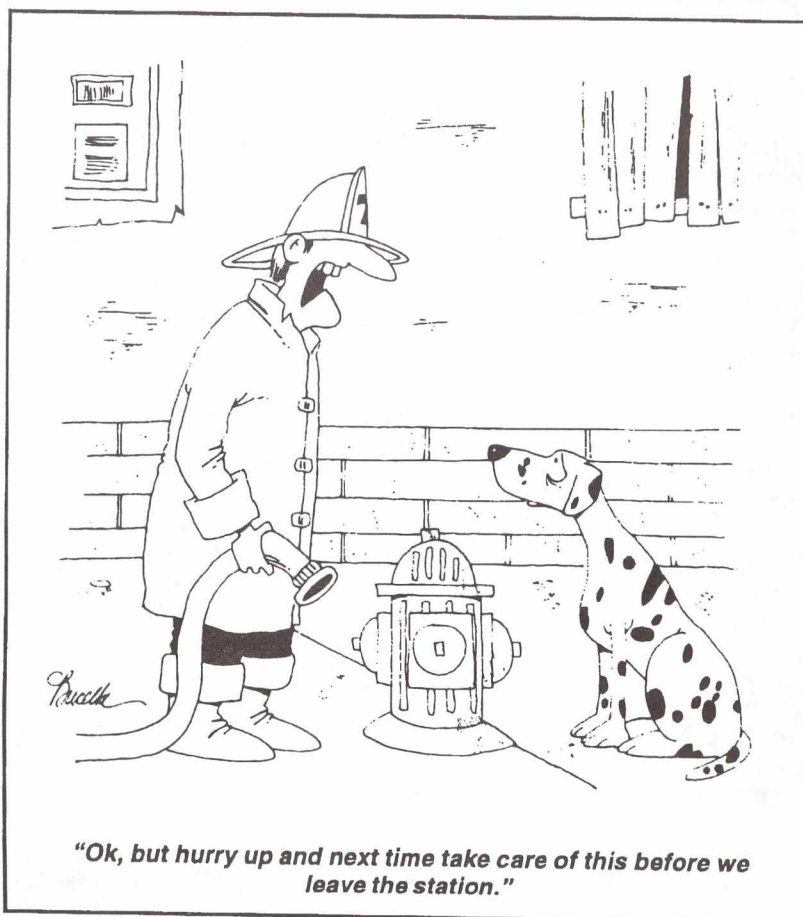
"The government's continued changes in CHAMPUS contractors is extremely disruptive for the hundreds of thousands of military families who depend on CHAMPUS for their health care needs. The upheaval also affects providers, who will most likely lose CHAMPUS business. Transitioning to a new 'inexperienced' contractor brings up the concern of continuity of care for beneficiaries, claims processing and customer service," said Kaplan.

The preliminary results of an independent survey conducted in March

by the Social Science Research Laboratory at San Diego State University showed that 92.9 percent of beneficiaries were very satisfied with Aetna's administration of the contract, and in a separate survey conducted by Aetna, 92 percent of beneficiaries viewed a potential switch in contractors to be extremely disruptive.

Aetna was awarded the CHAMPUS contract in July 1993 and has managed the program since February 1, 1994.

(Aetna Government Health Plans, CHAMPUS Division)



Star Presidian

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May 5, 1995

Deputy commander to retire

By Sharon E. Everett-Roles
Star Presidian staff

Maj. Gen. Robert S. Frix, Sixth U.S. Army Deputy Commanding General for active components, retires this month after more than 30 years of service.

The Harlingen, Texas, native began his career with a commission as a second lieutenant in the infantry following graduation from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. Frix has held numerous assignments since then, including two tours in Vietnam and numerous tours in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He says that the latter presented the biggest challenge to his wife, Moe, son Alex, and daughter Michele.

"When I was assigned to Third Army, the Army element of Central Command, I was gone quite a bit," Frix explained. "Of my 36 months with Third Army, I spent 30 of them in the Middle East."

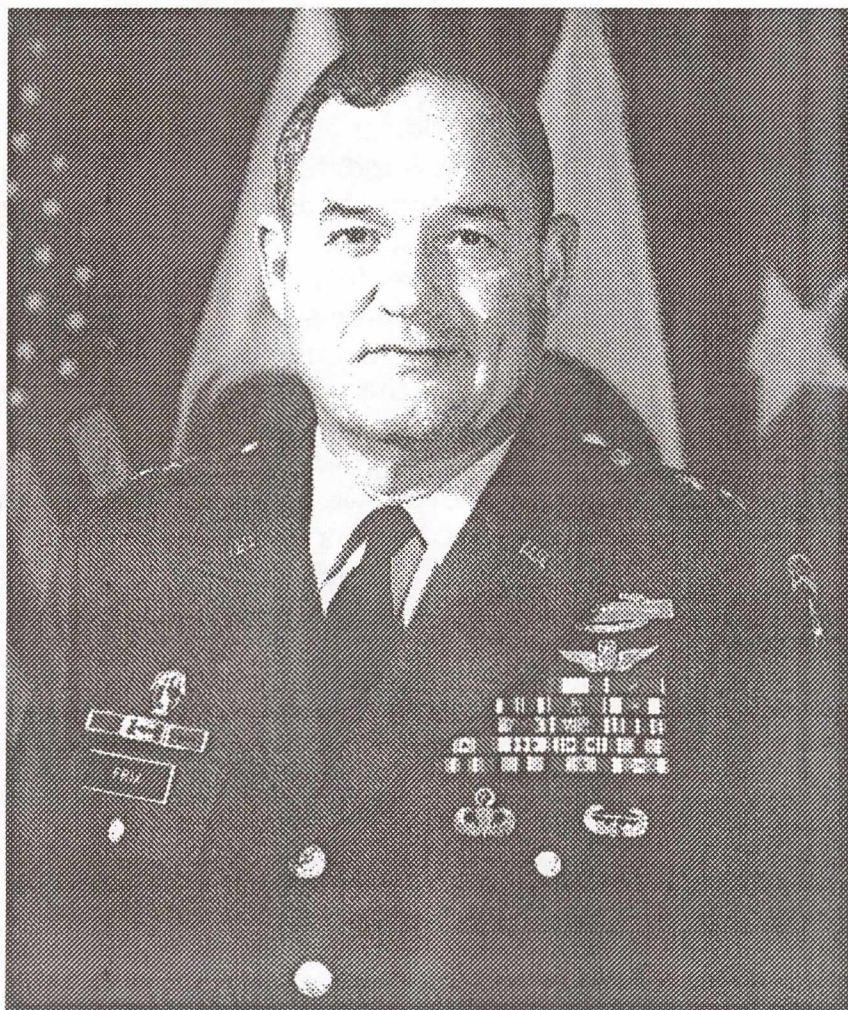
Frix said that his most challenging assignment was with the First Cavalry in Vietnam.

"I hadn't made up my mind to stay in the Army until then," he said. "As a result of that tour, I decided to stay in. It was a watershed assignment for me. I saw significant action with both the infantry and the air cavalry. I also saw what soldiering was really about -- the comradeship and teamwork. I felt that was significant."

"My most interesting assignment," he continued, "was commanding Joint Task Force Freedom in the emergency restoration of Kuwait. There was no questioning the validity of that mission's humanitarian nature. Anyway, that was my first time being involved with the Reserve Components. The citizen-soldiers brought a special dimension to the restoration because of their civilian skills. These people were police chiefs, firemen, engineers, city administrators. . . this training combined with their military skills for a dual capacity in helping put the city's infrastructure back together. I was very impressed."

Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm was also Frix's fourth time working with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf.

"He's not easy to work with," Frix opined, "but I've learned how. He has a rather strenuous way of finding out how strongly you feel about recommendations,



but his judgment is unquestionable. His decisions are always right. And, we accomplished the stated mission -- to get the Iraqis out of Kuwait with minimal casualties. I hate war, but I believe we did the right thing in being there."

Frix says his career has exceeded his own expectations.

"I hoped to make colonel," he said. "And, wanted something interesting and challenging."

Of his tour at Sixth U.S. Army headquarters, Frix expressed enjoyment at serving with soldiers in units and helping with their training.

"I've always enjoyed that," he said. "And now I've been very motivated to work with the Reserve Components. My respect for the citizen-soldier is now deeper than ever-- in war and peace."

Armed Forces Day Message From the Secretary of Defense

Fifty years ago, in World War II, the United States Armed Forces helped defeat the forces of aggression and oppression on two sides of the globe.

For the next 45 years, in the Cold War, we faced down the global Soviet threat.

Today, our forces stand guard, at home and abroad, against a range of potential threats to American interests.

And on Armed Forces Day, the nation says thank you to our men and women in uniform, their families and the communities that support them. The dedication, spirit, courage and patriotism of our forces make them a beacon of freedom in a turbulent world.

Around the world, there is a growing sense of peace and cooperation among nations that once struggled against oppression. From Eastern Europe to Southwest Asia to nations in our own hemisphere, this growing sense of peace and cooperation is a testament to the service of American forces. You have helped to share the blessings of liberty we enjoy with more people around the world.

Daniel Webster said, "God grants liberty only to those who love it and are always ready to guard and defend it." America loves liberty. And we are proud of our forces, who are always ready to guard and defend our liberty. We sleep better each night knowing our nation's security is in sure and strong hands.


William J. Perry

Star Presidian

This Army Funded Newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. Army. Contents of the *Star Presidian* are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army, Sixth U. S. Army, or the Presidio of San Francisco, Calif. It is published every other Friday using desktop publishing by the Presidio of San Francisco Public Affairs Office, Building 38, Room 113, Presidio of San Francisco, Calif., 94129, phone (415) 561-2192. Circulation: 2,000.

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Presidio Pulse

Zoo Stroller Derby

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Red Cross update

Effective immediately, the Red Cross at Naval Medical Center Oakland no longer provides emergency casework services to members of the military and their families. This service is now provided through NAS Alameda. If you or a family member need Red Cross assistance, please call (510) 633-5880, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. After hours, or on weekends, call (800) 540-2000.

Columbia College

Soldiers and family members planning to attend Columbia College during the May 29 - July 22, 1995, term may register at Treasure Island beginning Monday. Course offerings include: Introduction to Psychology, Child Psychology, Physical Science Survey, English Composition I and II, Western Civilization II, Principles of Management, Introduction to Computers, Laws of Criminal

Evidence, Public Administration and Policy, Math in Modern Society, Management Information Systems, and Management of Criminal Justice Agencies.

Schedules, tuition assistance and counseling are available by appointment at the Presidio Education center, Building 682, (415) 561-3683. The three-course limit on tuition assistance is expected to remain in effect through September.

Aerobics classes

Beverly Carpenter is teaching high/low impact aerobics, body sculpting and stretching, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Main Post Gym. Classes begin at 6:15 p.m. and cost \$3.50 per session, or 5 classes for \$15. Call (415) 981-0111 for information.

Activity closures

The Youth Activities Center will be closed May 9 and 10 due to a power outage.

The swimming pool will be closed May 16 and 17 for repairs. This is a change from the original schedule of May 9 and 10.

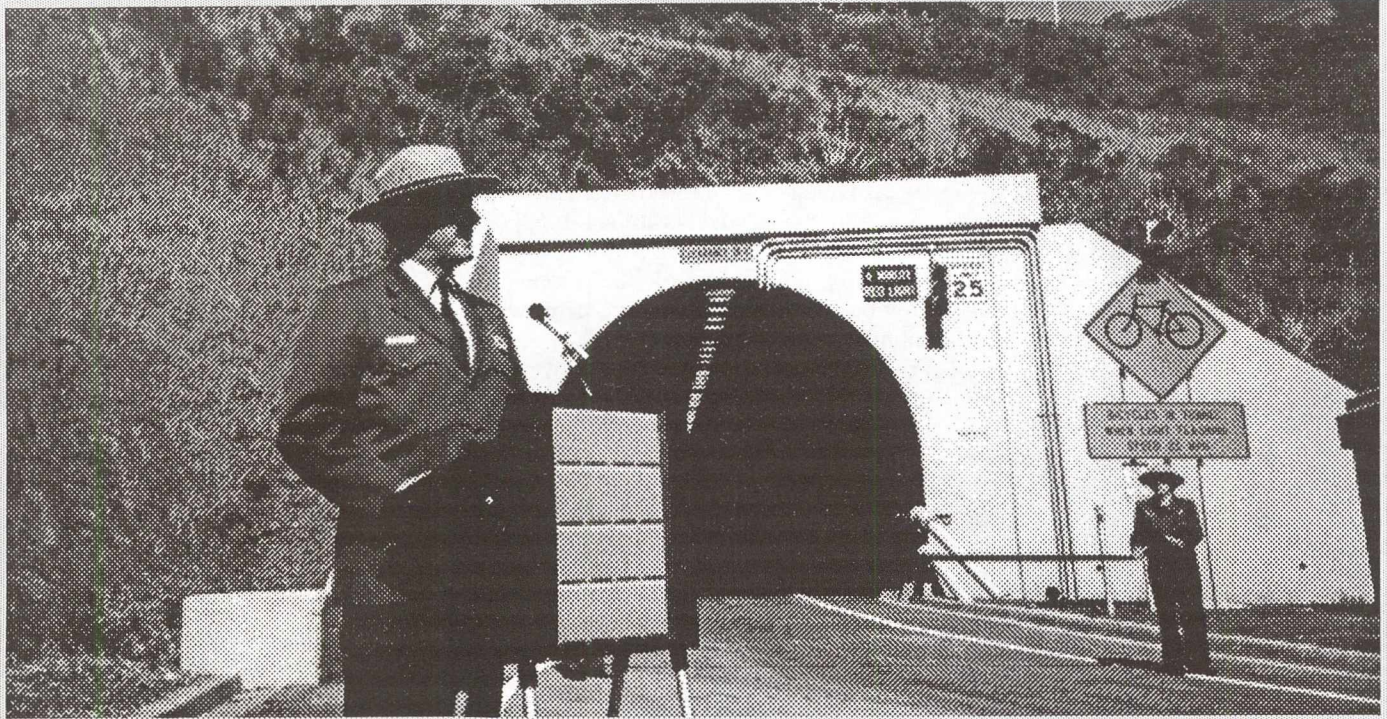
Golf tournament

The Presidio Subinstallation Best Ball Foursome golf tournament takes place at noon, May 31, at the Presidio Army Golf Course. Divisions are open team (any age) and seniors (all team members aged 40 or older). The tournament is open to all active duty personnel and family members (19 years or older), DA civilians assigned or attached to Presidio of San Francisco, and Army retirees on a space available basis residing within 50 miles of the Presidio of San Francisco. For information, contact Bobbie Gascon or Bob Darling at (415) 561-3605/3686.

PX News

The Presidio of San Francisco Post Exchange is still open and ready to help meet your shopping needs. Manager Tom Gross will be having a "Meet The Manager" day, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., May 16. If you have questions or concerns about the PX, meet him there or phone (415) 922-4605/4175.





James L. Hudgins

Tunnel vision

Brian O'Neill, General Superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, is seen addressing a local audience witnessing the recent ribbon-cutting ceremony reopening the Baker-Barry Tunnel. The tunnel, built by the Army in 1917 to ease the movement of personnel and equipment from East Fort Baker to the coastal defense facilities in the Marin headlands, has been closed to traffic since 1989. Although still restricted to a single, one-way vehicular traffic lane, lanes have been added so that bicycle traffic can be accommodated for the first time. O'Neill spoke of the reopening as another major step in the conversion of our historic military installation into recreational, public use.

"Living benefit" announced for FEGLI

The Office of Personnel Management will offer an open season May 22 to July 21 to give more federal employees access to new living benefits in the Federal Employees' Group Life Insurance program.

During the open season enrollees can sign up only for basic coverage. They may not elect options increasing the value of their policies. Only current employees are eligible to participate in the open season.

The living benefits feature, known in the insurance industry as an accelerated benefit, is an insurance payment to terminally ill policyholders prior to death. A living benefits payment can be a financial lifeline for individuals and their families who incur large, uncovered expenses during illnesses, officials said.

The Living Benefits Act, Public Law 103-409, authorizing the new feature becomes effective July 25. The law limits payment of benefits to workers diagnosed with a condi-

tion giving them a life expectancy of nine months or less. It authorizes payment of the basic benefit to these workers.

The dollar value of the basic benefit is equal to an employee's annual salary rounded to the next thousand dollars, plus \$2,000. For example, the basic benefit for an employee earning \$34,800 would be \$37,000.

The basic benefit for retired employees is based on their salary at retirement and reduced over time to not less than 25 percent of their basic insurance when they retired.

Terminally ill federal employees or retirees will be able to receive their full basic benefit, minus only a nominal charge to replace lost interest to the life insurance program. Or current employees may elect a partial living benefit in multiples of \$1,000, allowing survivors to receive the remainder at their death. However, employees who elect a partial living benefit cannot receive future living payments.

The new law also allows employees and retirees to make an irrevocable assignment of all their life insurance coverage to any persons, firms or trusts.

Agencies received guidelines on conducting the open season in April.

"By making a living benefit available, we can provide some measure of financial comfort to our friends and colleagues," said OPM Director Jim King. "At a time of great personal adjustment, individuals and their loved ones should have peace of mind and not be burdened with other concerns."

The federal government offers no-physical-required life insurance to new employees. OPM rarely offers opportunities for employees to change their minds once they decline the insurance. Open seasons are offered only due to major changes in benefits or premiums.

(American Forces Information Service)

CHAMPUS to cover hospice care costs

CHAMPUS/TRICARE will soon begin paying the cost of hospice care.

The hospice benefit will be for patient admissions that occur on or after June 1, 1995.

The CHAMPUS/TRICARE hospice program is based on Medicare's hospice program. It's designed to provide care and comfort to patients who are expected to live less than six months if the terminal illness runs its normal course.

Since this type of care emphasizes supportive services, such as pain control and home care, rather than treatment that's aimed at curing an illness, CHAMPUS/TRICARE-eligible persons who elect to receive care under the hospice program can't receive other services under the CHAMPUS/TRICARE basic program (treatments aimed at a cure) unless the hospice care has been formally revoked.

CHAMPUS/TRICARE will pay for the following services and supplies under the hospice benefit:

1. Physician services furnished by hospice employees or under arrangements with the hospice.
2. Nursing care provided by or under the supervision of a registered nurse.
3. Medical social services provided by a qualified social worker who is working under the direction of a physician.
4. Counseling services provided to the terminally ill patient and his or her family members or other persons who care for the patient at home.
5. Short-term inpatient care, both respite and general, when provided in Medicare-participating hospice inpatient units, hospitals, or skilled nursing facilities. Respite care (care that is provided when necessary to relieve family members or other persons who care for the patient at home) may be provided only on an occasional basis, and for no more than five consecutive days at a time.
6. Medical supplies, including drugs. The drugs must be used primarily for the relief of pain and the control of symptoms related to the patient's terminal illness. Medical supplies must be part of the written plan of care.
7. Durable medical equipment, as well as other self-help and personal comfort items, related to the relief of pain or management of the patient's terminal illness and provided for use in the patient's home.
8. Home health aide services furnished by qualified aides and homemaker services. The aide services must be provided under the general supervision of a registered nurse and must be documented in the nursing notes as well as the treatment plan.
9. Physical therapy, occupational therapy

and speech-language pathology services, provided to control symptoms or to enable the patient to maintain activities of daily living and basic functional skills.

The hospice benefits are subject to various limitations and rules. For example, patient-care services rendered by an attending physician who is not employed by, or under contract with, the hospice are not included in the amount that CHAMPUS/TRICARE pays the hospice for its services. The attending physician will bill separately for his or her own services.

Also, in order to participate in CHAMPUS/TRICARE's hospice program, a hospice is required to offer bereavement counseling and therapy (counseling services provided to an individual's family after his or her death) to the families of patients. However, CHAMPUS/TRICARE will not pay for such therapy.

In addition, services must conform to a written plan of care. Also, a registered nurse must visit the home site at least every two weeks when aide services are being provided, and the visit must include an assessment of the aide's services.

There are other rules and limits as well.

A patient who has a life expectancy of six months or less and who elects to receive the hospice care benefit may receive four episodes of care: (1) two 90-day periods; (2) one 30-day period; and (3) a final period of unlimited duration. These episodes of care must be used consecutively. That is, the patient must use the two 90-day periods before the 30-day period, etc.

There may be gaps between the episodes of hospice care. If there's any break in hospice care a separate election must be made for a subsequent episode of hospice care. In the gaps between periods of hospice care the patient will revert to eligibility for standard CHAMPUS/TRICARE benefits.

The patient may change from one participating hospice program to another program once during each period of care by submit-

ting a signed statement addressed to both the current hospice and the new hospice.

A CHAMPUS/TRICARE patient who decides to receive hospice care must file an election statement with a particular hospice. Hospices will design and print their own election statement forms.

Hospices must be Medicare-certified, and must meet all Medicare conditions of participation in relation to CHAMPUS/TRICARE patients in order to receive payment under the CHAMPUS/TRICARE program. The hospice programs are responsible for making sure that all individuals who render hospice services meet CHAMPUS/TRICARE qualification standards.

Patients or their families may check with individual hospices to find out if they are approved for participation in the CHAMPUS/TRICARE hospice program. Or, individuals may verify a hospice program's status with the CHAMPUS/TRICARE contractor for their state or region.

Patients won't have to satisfy any deductibles under the CHAMPUS/TRICARE hospice benefit. CHAMPUS/TRICARE will pay hospices the full cost of all covered services (up to an annual limit which equals the Medicare limit for such services; the most recent limit for the annual period ending Oct. 31, 1994, is \$121,846), except for small cost-shares that may be collected by an individual hospice for outpatient prescriptions, and for inpatient respite care.

The patient is responsible for five percent of outpatient drugs, or \$5 for each prescription, whichever is less. The cost-share for each day of inpatient respite care is equal to five percent of the amount that CHAMPUS/TRICARE has estimated to be the cost of that respite care, after adjusting the national rate (currently \$93.63 per day) for local wage differences.

(Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services)



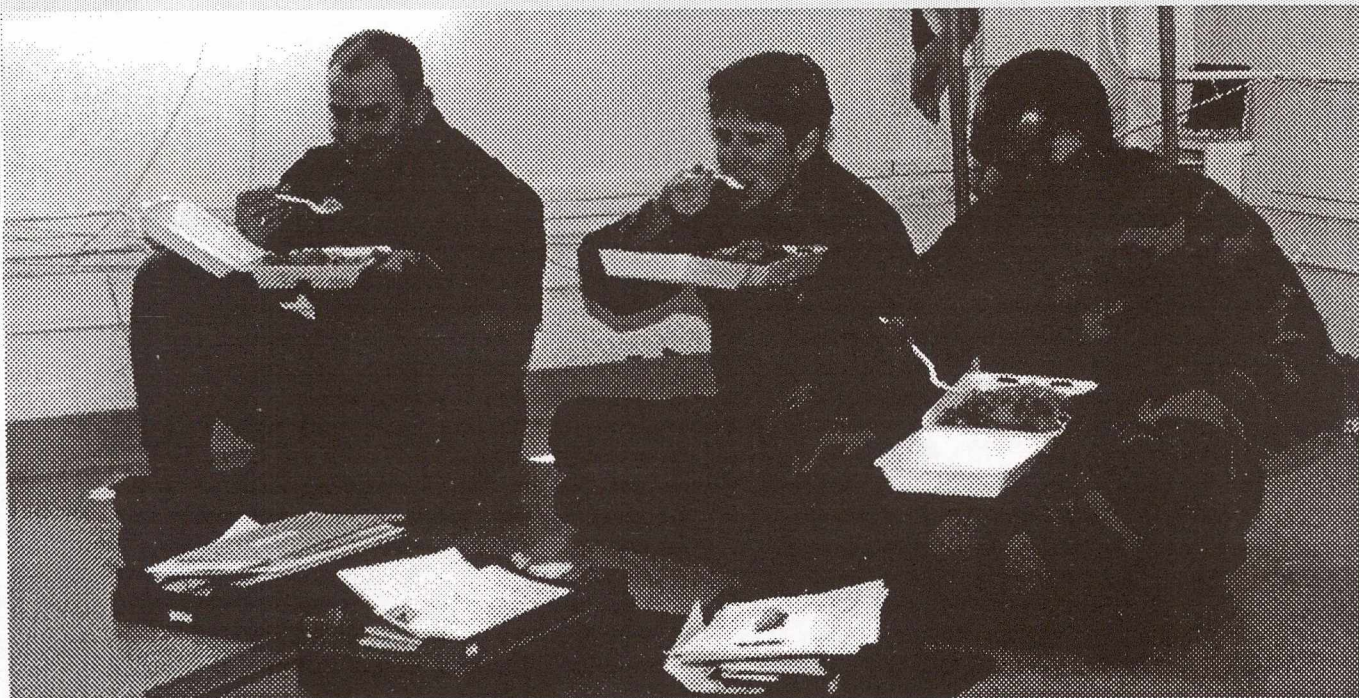


Sixth United States Army &
The Presidio of San Francisco



Will Honor
Presidio Volunteers and Military Spouses
at a
Retreat Ceremony
5 May 1995 1645 hrs
Pershing Square Flagpole
All volunteers, military spouses & their families
are invited to attend.

*Please join us at the Presidio Community Club immediately following the ceremony for the presentation of certificates and refreshments.



Who needs a chair?

The true spirit of downsizing was captured by Lt. Col. Thomas Pursel, assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Training (left), Lt. Col. Anne Buhls, Secretary of the General Staff, and Col. James Elliot, Deputy Chief of Staff for Training. The three continued to work despite a lack of furniture—and even managed a picnic lunch on the floor. (Photo by Sgt. Maj. Dennis McKay)

"Gulf syndrome" still undefined: troop studies continue as cases are validated

By Evelyn D. Harris
American Forces Information Service

There is still no single cause of illnesses suffered by Persian Gulf veterans and no "silver bullet" to cure them, said DoD's top doctor.

Dr. Stephen Joseph, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, made the remarks to Congress and the press March 9 in a quarterly update on the Comprehensive Clinical Evaluation Program. The program began last June to provide in-depth medical evaluations for DoD beneficiaries experiencing illnesses that may be related to their Persian Gulf service.

He said more than 15,000 Persian Gulf veterans have enrolled in the registry, and more than 12,000 sought medical evaluation. Of the 4,678 people with completed evaluations by late February, records of 2,074 had been validated and entered into the data base. Joseph said there is still no persuasive evidence chemical or biological weapons were used in the gulf war.

"Our findings, consistent with earlier data, show no unique Persian Gulf illnesses af-

fecting significant numbers of our troops," he said. "Further, our studies still indicate the vast majority of troops, more than 90 percent, returned from the gulf war healthy. But we still are not done. There are still Persian Gulf veterans suffering for whom we have no final answers and for whom we must press for answers."

Of the 2,074 validated patients, 84 percent were diagnosed with known illnesses and are responding to treatment, DoD health officials said. About 21 percent of these patients have psychologically related problems. Another 4 percent suffer from infectious illnesses; 32 people suffer from leishmaniasis, a tropical parasitic disease, said Joseph.

Military doctors have been unable to diagnose the remaining 16 percent, who are suffering from ill-defined conditions like fatigue, headache and sleep disturbances.

Joseph said DoD strongly supports President Bill Clinton's recently announced Persian Gulf Advisory Committee. He said DoD has worked closely from the beginning with the White House and the departments

of Veterans Affairs and Health and Human Services. He said DoD established two special care centers, in Washington and San Antonio, that focus on the evaluation, care and rehabilitation of veterans who require additional medical services.

DoD is engaged in a variety of joint Persian Gulf-related research studies with VA and the Department of Health and Human Services, Joseph noted. In fiscal 1995 DoD will spend \$10 million for gulf-related additional research, at least \$5 million of which will be competitively bid, independently peer-reviewed research.

He said the research will include a study of the possible interactive effects of pyridostigmine with certain chemical compounds, such as insecticides. Pyridostigmine is used as a pretreatment when there is a possibility of exposure to nerve agents.

Other research will compare birth defects in children of deployed personnel with those of military members who did not deploy to the gulf. Several other large studies compare the health of veterans who deployed to the gulf with those who served elsewhere.

Clinton praises soldiers for values, leadership qualities

By Linda D. Kozaryn
American Forces Information Service

Today's service members stand for the old-fashioned American values that lead to success and the good life, according to President Bill Clinton.

He recently visited Fort Benning, Ga., the first presidential visit there since Jimmy Carter's in 1977.

Accompanied by Georgia Sen. Sam Nunn and state and local officials, Clinton met with service members at Lawson Army Airfield. He commended Fort Benning for winning the Commander in Chief's Army Community of Excellence Award for the second time. He also acknowledged the contributions of post Command Sgt. Maj. William H. Acebes, a Ranger and Special Forces soldier, retiring after 30 years' service.

Clinton addressed the service members, thanking those who served in Somalia, Rwanda and Haiti, and those who responded when Iraq moved toward Kuwait's border last fall.

"The mission we face today as a people is to move into the 21st Century . . . still the world's greatest force for peace and freedom and democracy and still the country with the American dream alive -- the dream that if you work hard and make the most of

your own life, you can live up to your God-given capacities," he said.

To accomplish this mission, Clinton said, the administration is trying to make government smaller and less bureaucratic, to create more jobs and to invest in training and education.

"Much as the military has done," he said, "we must do for all Americans, and not just when they're young, but throughout their work lives . . . We know clearly that in the 21st century what you earn will depend upon what you can learn. And we know that the great divide in our country today between those who are doing well and those who are struggling is often defined by how much education they have and what they can still learn."

Clinton pointed out that the military has been downsized dramatically, a process he termed "somewhat traumatic."

"I think it's fair to say that no major organization in the history of the United States has ever done so much change so rapidly with such a high level of professionalism and commitment and ultimate success. We still have the best trained, best equipped and most highly motivated, most effective military in the world."

Clinton said service members are a valuable force for America's security interest

around the world and for long-term security here at home. "Our security involves what we do here at home, as well as what we do beyond our borders," he said.

"So many of you are role models to our young people, role models to those who are discouraged, who may want to quit, who may think that they can't make the most of their lives, who understand that they may have personal problems or be living in a country with big economic problems that they don't feel they can overcome. All of you can make a difference."

"I can't tell you how many places I go around this country where young people who are despairing, who are confused, who don't know what they are going to do with their lives, . . . look at you and know that if they live by old-fashioned values and if they support the American way, they can succeed. You are that to them."

"Never forget that your mission in improving, enhancing and protecting our security not only involves what you may be called upon to do in distant places around the world, but what you may do every day; just walking down the street or speaking to a child or standing tall, so that people can see that in this country, if you do the right thing, you can live a good life and be a great American."

National Historic Preservation Week

Army, Park Service celebrate Presidio's heritage

The U.S. Army and the National Park Service will jointly observe National Historic Preservation Week and California Archaeology Week, May 15-19 at the Presidio of San Francisco. Army personnel, Park Service employees, and the general public are invited to attend all scheduled events.

Activities will include lunchtime presentations by historians and archaeologists which focus on the rich history of the Presidio, displays of Spanish colonial artifacts recovered from archaeological excavations on post, and a guided tour of the site where 200-year-old remains of the Presidio de San Francisco were recently discovered. Videos relating to historic events at the Presidio will be shown after the lunchtime presentations on Monday, Thursday and Friday.

All presentations take place from noon until 1 p.m., on the first floor of Building 102.

May 15: Stephen Haller, Park Historian: "Invitation to History: The Presidio of San Francisco."

Video: "Presidio of San Francisco: Guardian of the Golden Gate," by Sixth U.S. Army and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

May 16: Leo Barker, Park Historical Archaeologist: "Colonial Spanish Archaeological Research in the United States."

May 17: Barb Voss, Archaeologist, Woodward-Clyde Consultants: "Archaeological Discovery of the Spanish Colonial Presidio de San Francisco." This lecture will be followed by a special guided tour of the

excavated remains of the Presidio de San Francisco.

May 18: Stephen Haller, Park Historian: "The Last Word in Airfields: Crissy Field."

Video: "Fifty Years of Silence: The Untold Story of Japanese-American Soldiers in the Pacific Theatre 1941-1952," by the National Japanese-American Historical Society.

May 19: John Martini, Park Curator of Military History: "Fortress America: San Francisco's Harbor Forts 1850-1948."

Video: "Fort Point: Guardian of the Golden Gate," by the Golden Gate National Park Association.

(Sacramento District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers)

The back page

Hazardous waste turn-in announced

A household hazardous waste turn-in will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., May 24, at the Building 1029 parking lot.

Household hazardous wastes accepted: waste oils from automobiles, motorcycles, lawn mowers; waste gasoline and diesel; lead-acid batteries; paints (latex and oil-based), thinners, solvents, reducers; aerosols, spray paints; cleaning products, solvents, disinfectants; magnesium and lithium batteries; pesticides/herbicides, other gardening products or poisons; drain cleaners/clog openers, other caustic products; polishes, waxes, stripping agents.

Wastes not accepted: radioactive wastes, medical wastes, polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), railroad ties, asbestos.

How to package household hazardous waste for transport:

1. Keep all products in original containers with labels intact. Do not mix wastes.
2. Place leaking containers inside larger non-leaking containers or wrap in newspaper and place in a plastic bag.
3. Make sure all lids and caps are tight.
4. Place items securely in a box for transport.
5. Use newspaper or cardboard as filler to

keep items from tipping, sliding or rolling.

6. Do not leave material in an unventilated vehicle for long periods of time.

7. Do not smoke near chemicals.

8. Drive carefully.

9. It is against the law to transport more than five gallons or 50 pounds of hazardous waste unless the vehicle is registered with the state as a hazardous waste hauling vehicle.

To turn in waste, you **must** have a valid military/DoD identification card.

If you have questions, contact the Environmental Office at **(415) 561-3645**.

(Sub-Installation Fort Lewis)

VETERINARY SERVICES UPDATE

The Veterinary Services on the Presidio, located in the rear of Building 567, will continue to provide limited services to authorized patrons only until September.

Starting this month, the clinic will be open the first and third Wednesday of each month, but clinic hours will change. The clinic will now be open from 9:30 a.m. until noon. Please note the change. Services available for your cat or dog are: vaccinations, dewormings/fecal examinations, heartworm tests/monthly preventive tablets, feline leukemia tests, bordatella vaccines, flea products, and shampoos.

Health certificates are issued to those clients presenting documents/medical records indicating current vaccination status. Heartworm tablets are only dispensed to those clients showing proof of a heartworm test within the last year.

If you need an appointment, you may either call Travis Air Force Base Veterinary Services at **(707) 424-3010** or sign up on the sheet posted on the door at building 567. If you call Travis Air Force Base and reach the answering service, please leave your name, telephone number, and state that you are calling for an appointment at the Presidio clinic.

(Travis Air Force Base Veterinary Services)

Army Career and Alumni Program

The Army Career and Alumni Program has prepared a **FREE** specialized training program and counseling schedule to assist you in your career transition. A team of professional career counselors are in the area to answer your concerns about marketing yourself and looking for another job.

Some of the topics discussed will be:

- * Understanding the job search environment
- * Controlling stress during transition
- * Determining your job objectives
- * Delivering high impact resumes and applications
- * Cultivating effective networks
- * Learning how to effectively interview: what are the **TOUGH** questions?
- * Learning negotiation tips
- * Recognizing and developing keys to success on the new job

After the formal two-day workshop (Monday and Tuesday), the counselors are available for one-on-one assistance in developing or fine-tuning your resumes, SF 171s, or job applications. You will also have access to state of the art job and employment computerized contacts.

The team will be located at the Community Activities Center through May 11.

If interested, call Maria Gutsfeld, **(415) 561-2119**, or the Community Activities Center office, **(415) 561-3615**.

Star Presidian

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Victory in Europe!

Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr. (left), Sixth U.S. Army Commanding General, and Pfc. Rumaldo Medina placed a wreath in honor of V-E Day May 8. Medina received the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions on the Siegfried Line in Germany during World War II. (Photo by Bay Area TASC)

Education Center Update

Bay Area soldiers earn degrees, graduate

By Jeane Redsecker
Special to the Star Presidian

There are lots of things happening at the Presidio Education Center these days, even as we prepare to close.

Eleven Bay Area soldiers received their college degrees from Columbia College and will participate in graduate exercises June 4 at Treasure Island.

Earning an Associate Degree were Sergeant 1st Class John Alves (Sacramento Recruiting Battalion), Staff Sgt. Douglas Armon (Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army), Spc. Alexander Calinagan (Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army), Sergeant 1st Class Henry Conway (Operational Readiness Evaluation Team), Sergeant 1st Class Joel D. Hembree (Readiness Group Presidio), Sergeant 1st Class Robert Joe Martin, Sr. (6th Recruiting Brigade), Sergeant 1st Class Jeffrey Perez, Sr. (91st Division), and Staff Sgt. Donnell Warren (Headquarters, Sixth U.S. Army).

Awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree were Staff Sgt. Theresa Benavidez (Criminal Investigation Division), Sergeant 1st Class Charles Nelson (6th Recruiting Brigade), and Sergeant 1st Class Dawn Odle Nelson (6th Recruiting Brigade).

Congratulations to these soldiers for their educational accomplishments!

In order to reduce testing inventory prior to closure, College Level Exam Program (CLEP) tests will be administered at the Presidio Education Center May 24. Tests are available in the following subjects: English Composition, Social Science, Natural Science, Humanities, Math, Introduction to Business Law, Principles of Management, Principles of Marketing, and Western Civilization from 1648-Present. Testing is available to active duty and reserve soldiers who first pass a practice test. To arrange for testing, call (415) 561-3683.

Exams from the Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education (DANTES) will be administered at the Presidio Educa-

tion Center June 13. Tests are available in the following subjects: History of the Vietnam War, Ethics in America, Introduction to Law Enforcement, Fundamentals of Counseling, War & Peace in the Nuclear age (upper level credit), Personnel/Human Resources Management, Organizational Behavior, and Money and Banking (upper level credit). Testing is available to active duty and reserve soldiers. To obtain a study guide and arrange for testing, call (415) 561-3683.

Guidance received this week from Department of Army maintains the nine semester-hour limitation on tuition assistance for the remainder of fiscal year 1995 but reports that it will increase to 12 semester hours for fiscal year 1996. Confusing the situation is FORSCOM's decision to authorize 12 semester hours for 1995 if funding is available at the installation. Unfortunately, Fort Lewis, Wash., which funds the Presidio Education Center, cannot support the additional three hours this year.

Presidio Pulse

Aerobics classes

Beverly Carpenter is teaching high/low impact aerobics, body sculpting and stretching, Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Main Post Gym. Classes begin at 6:15 p.m. and cost \$3.50 per session, or 5 classes for \$15. Call (415) 981-0111 for information.

Golf tournament

The Presidio Subinstallation Best Ball Foursome golf tournament takes place at noon, May 31, at the Presidio Army Golf Course. Divisions are open team (any age) and seniors (all team members aged 40 or older). The tournament is open to all active duty personnel and family members (19 years or older), DA civilians assigned or attached to Presidio of San Francisco, and Army retirees on a space available basis residing within 50 miles of the Presidio of San Francisco. For information, contact Bobbie Gascon or Bob Darling at (415) 561-3605/3686.

Legal Services

Need a will, power of attorney or other legal assistance? **Do it now!** The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, Sixth Army, will turn in its computer equipment later this month and will relocate to Building 38. Thereafter, the office will be unable to prepare wills. Only standard form powers of attorney will be available. For appointment or information, telephone (415) 561-2164.

Oklahoma City aide

The Oklahoma City Federal Family Assistance Relief Fund has been established by the Federal Executive board. If you would like to donate, please send your check (payable to Oklahoma City Federal Family Assistance Relief Fund) to:

Oklahoma City Federal Family Assistance Relief Fund

Oklahoma Federal Credit Union

517 N.E. 36th Street
Oklahoma City, Okla., 73105-2523.

Super Sleuth Run

The Seventh Annual Super Sleuth Run (sponsored by Bay Area Federal Law Enforcement Agencies) takes place on the Presidio of San Francisco at 10 a.m., June 9. This is a scenic, eight kilometer (five mile) loop race and two-mile out-and-back fun run around Fort Scott. For information on registration and divisions, contact Special Agent Andy Black at (415) 553-7568.

Somalia stories

Maj. Greg Alderete is publishing a collection of combat memoirs from U.S. Army soldiers who were deployed to Somalia. He wants to assemble varied experiences, letters and photos from anyone who deployed there for a book to be titled Memoirs From The Basement of Hell (Mogadishu). All participants selected for participation will receive full recognition. Send your submissions to:

Maj. Greg Alderete
ATTN: Somalia Stories
1907 South Idaho Avenue
Caldwell, Idaho, 83605.

For information, phone DSN 422-5050/5060.

Credit Union news

The Presidio branch of Pentagon Federal Credit Union will close June 30. The ATM/Penteller located at the PX will cease to be operational at the close of business June 27. However, you will still have access to your Pentagon Federal accounts. Here are just a few of the services you can continue to use to stay on top of your credit union affairs:

Automated Teller Machine (ATM) Networks: You can access your Pentagon Federal Pencheck (checking) or Money Market Savings Account at more than 160,000 ATM's including: Cirrus, AFFN,

The Exchange, Most and American Express Express Cash.

Mail: Payments, deposits and correspondence may be mailed to:

Pentagon Federal Credit Union
Box 247009

Omaha, Neb., 68124-7009.

24-Hour Teleloan Plus: 1-800-290-PFCU (7328).

24-Hour Telephone Teller: 1-800-447-PFCU.

Telephone: You may now call directly, 5:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, using the Pacific-only phone line at 1-800-633-5163.

Presidio Branch Phone and Fax lines through June 30: (415) 561-3936, (415) 929-1400 (FAX).

ACS workshops

Come join ACS Brown Bag Lunch workshops, Building 682, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. No pre-registration is necessary for these classes:

Managing Job Loss: May 22 (Green Room), June 1 (Day Care Room), June 13 (Library).

Effective, Easy Stress Relaxation Techniques: May 24 (Day Care Room), June 5 (Green Room), June 15 (Day Care Room).

Change Management: May 26 (Green Room), June 7 (Day Care Room), June 19 (Green Room).

Rap Session: May 30 (Library), June 9 (Day Care Room), June 21 (Day Care Room).

CHAMPUS Briefings

CHAMPUS Briefings are scheduled for May 24, 1 p.m., at Letterman U.S. Army Health Clinic's Executive Conference Room, and May 26, 1 p.m., at Hamilton Field Fellowship Hall. Briefers will tell you more about the health care options available to CHAMPUS eligibles, especially TRICARE Prime -- a money-saving alternative to TRICARE Standard and Extra. No RSVP is required -- just drop in.

Star Presidian

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Photo and caption by Sergeant 1st Class Tom Morey

The ORE strikes again!

Four members of the Sixth U.S. Army Operational Readiness Evaluation Team recently participated in a four-man scramble golf tournament, "The Captain's Cup," at Naval Station Treasure Island. "The Captain's Cup" involves several events in which points are tallied by teams leading up to awards in categories for basketball, volleyball, darts (Individuals), racquetball (Individuals), five kilometer run (Individuals), bowling, and golf— in which our duffers placed second. Left to right in the photograph are Sergeant 1st Class Thomas M. Morey, Sergeant 1st Class Walter Chol, Navy Commander Paula Jordaneck, Sergeant 1st Class Joseph Sakarla, and James Harris. After the award presentations, refreshments were served.



Left: Maj. Gen. Robert S. Frix, deputy commanding general for active components, addressed the group at his farewell luncheon last week. Frix left the Presidio May 10 and will retire at Fort Rucker, Ala. (Photo by Bay Area Training and Support Command)

Due to personnel constraints, this week's paper and the next two issues of the *Star Presidian* will be four pages long. The final issue, June 30, will be an eight-page photo commemorative.

The back page

Post Office announces POW/MIA stamp

By Rudl Williams

American Forces Information Service

First-day-of-issue ceremonies for a new stamp honoring America's POW/MIAs will take place Memorial Day, May 29, in Washington, postal officials recently announced.

The stamp features a pair of military identification tags embossed with "POW/MIA -- Never Forgotten," displayed in front of the U.S. flag waving against a blue sky.

A stamp honoring America's prisoners of war and missing in action was issued in 1970. The six-cent red, white and blue stamp read, "Honoring U.S. Servicemen -- Prisoners of War -- Missing and Killed in Action." An attached six-cent stamp read, "50 Years of Service . . . Disabled American Veterans."

"The ID tag has come to represent many things in the modern military -- the identification of each person as a unique individual who has the right to hope, to survive and to ultimately have life after the wounds of combat," said Postmaster General Marvin Runyon in announcing the design. "It's a symbol of accounting for and caring for all our men and women in uniform. It's a symbol for commemorating and remembering all our POWs and MIAs."

Runyon said many veterans save their ID tags as treasured keepsakes, carrying them around their necks, in billfolds, on key chains and stored with valuable jewelry. "They pass them down to their children and grandchildren as heirlooms," he said. "They reflect on them and remember the sacrifices they and others made -- and they remember those captured by hostile forces and terrorists, and those who remain missing in action."

"The issue of a new stamp honoring the POWs and MIAs is a fitting tribute to this nation's commitment to the fullest possible accounting of those still missing," said James Wold, deputy assistant secretary of defense for POW/MIA affairs.

"I'm also pleased that many family and veterans' groups played a major role in the development of this stamp," Wold continued. "Recent U.S. government initiatives have expanded our effort to resolve this issue. We hope that America's citizens will be mindful of the commitment as they use this stamp."

A limited-edition print featuring the new stamp is available while supplies last, postal officials said. To order call **1-800-STAMP-24** or send \$7.95 plus \$3.20 shipping and handling to:

POW & MIA Print

USPS PFSC

P.O. Box 419219

Kansas City, MO 64141-6219

The stamps will be delivered only to U.S. addresses and to overseas addresses for military personnel and DoD civilian employees. Some American embassies overseas have military post offices, and those that don't correspond through diplomatic pouches and international mail.

Army and fleet post offices routinely get commemorative stamps for their customers, said Lt. Col. Jerry Peck, chief of staff of the Military Postal Service Agency in Alexandria, Va.

"But I'll send a message to them to encourage them to get the POW/MIA stamp -- make a double check to ensure the stamps

will be available to our customers," Peck said.

Postal officials coordinated the stamp's design with various veteran and family organizations. Licensing and royalty fees have been waived to IRS-qualified nonprofit organizations allowing them to reproduce the stamp design on T-shirts, sweat shirts, coffee mugs, key rings, etc., and use them for fund-raising purposes, officials said.

Nonprofit organizations can obtain color art work of the stamp design from the Postal Service's licensing agency by writing to:

Jane Kraemer

Hamilton Projects Inc.

215 Lexington Ave.

New York, NY 10016-6023.

Or they can FAX a written request to **1-212-683-1091**. The organization name, contact person, nonprofit tax identification number, phone and fax numbers and a brief description of the proposed use of the artwork must be included in the written request. Additional questions regarding nonprofit use of the artwork should be directed to Jane Kraemer at **1-212-684-4388**.

This applies to military clubs and organizations, too, as long as they can prove they're nonprofit, Kraemer said.

Memorial Day Message From the Secretary of Defense

Every year on Memorial Day, we pause to remember those brave soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who gave their lives in defense of our nation, our ideals and our way of life.

From the hills of Valley Forge to the shores of Omaha Beach to the streets of Mogadishu and Port-au-Prince, hundreds of thousands of American servicemen and women have made the ultimate sacrifice for the cause of freedom and justice.

Here at home and around the world, rows of white stone markers stand in silent testimony to the determination to defend America. The sacrifices of these men and women serve as a constant reminder that freedom isn't free at all; it comes at a very high price, but thankfully, one that those before us who built and preserved this country were willing to pay.

On Memorial Day, we celebrate the freedoms their sacrifices have won.

But we also salute the contributions that those of you who wear the uniforms of the U.S. Armed Forces continue to make. By accepting the torch that has been passed to you as guardians of our nation's freedoms, you ensure that the sacrifices of those who have gone before you were not in vain.

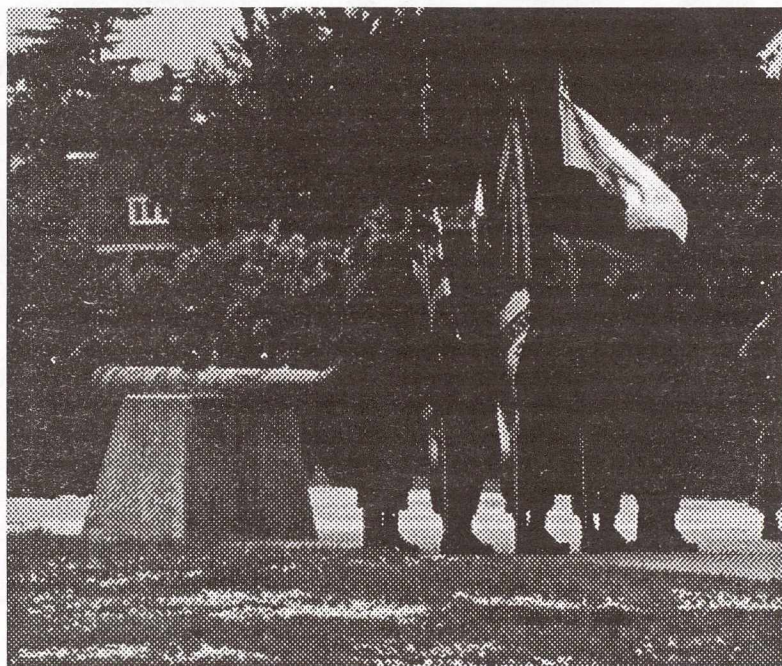
I, along with your fellow Americans, salute your dedication, professionalism and personal courage and loyalty. They serve as a source of pride and inspiration to us all, on Memorial Day and every day.

William J. Perry
William J. Perry

Star Presidian

Vol. 38, No. 11 Published for the Presidio of San Francisco military community June 2, 1995

Final retirement ceremony held



The color guard's flags flew (left) in the brisk breeze May 24 as 16 service members (above) participated in the Presidio's last military retirement ceremony. Each retiree received an award, presented by Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., Sixth U.S. Army commanding general. (Photos by Sharon E. Everett-Roles)

Presidia Pulse

Super Sleuth Run

The Seventh Annual Super Sleuth Run (sponsored by Bay Area Federal Law Enforcement Agencies) takes place on the Presidio of San Francisco at 10 a.m. June 9. This is a scenic, eight kilometer (five mile) loop race and two-mile out-and-back fun run around Fort Scott. For information on registration and divisions, contact Special Agent Andy Black at (415) 553-7568.

Somalia stories

Maj. Greg Alderete is publishing a collection of combat memoirs from U.S. Army soldiers who were deployed to Somalia. He wants to assemble varied experiences, letters and photos from anyone who deployed there for a book to be titled Memoirs From The Basement of Hell (Mogadishu). All participants selected will receive full recognition. Send your submissions to:

Maj. Greg Alderete
ATTN: Somalia Stories
1907 South Idaho Avenue
Caldwell, Idaho, 83605.

For information, phone DSN 422-5050/5060.

CHAMPUS briefing

Struggling to pay for your health care? If you use CHAMPUS benefits regularly, this briefing is for you! Stop by Letterman U.S. Army Health Clinic's Executive Conference Room at 10 a.m., June 15, for a 45-minute briefing followed by a question and answer period. Representatives from Letterman will tell you more about the health care program options available to CHAMPUS eligibles, especially TRICARE Prime — a money-saving alternative to TRICARE Standard and Extra. No RSVP is required.

Zoo news

The sights and sounds of native Australia

will be prevalent in the San Francisco Zoo's new Australian WalkAbout exhibit, a grassy 2.2-acre home for grey kangaroos, wallaroos, wallabies, emus and brush turkeys. The newly renovated exhibit, which opens to the public June 11, will allow visitors to experience mixed species interacting as they would in the wild, rather than viewing a singular species environment. This, combined with fun, interactive displays, will provide visitors with an entertaining visual and cultural learning experience. Australian WalkAbout will feature plants and trees indigenous to Australia and a dry river bed with only a 36-inch vertical wall separating visitors from marsupials. Free with paid admission to the Zoo. For information, call (415) 753-7080.

Poetry competition

The National Library of Poetry has announced that \$24,000 in prizes will be awarded this year to more than 250 poets in the North American Open Poetry Contest. The deadline for the contest is June 30. The contest is open to everyone and entry is FREE.

Any poet, whether previously published or not, can be a winner. Every poem entered also has a chance to be published in a deluxe, hardbound anthology.

To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject and style, to the National Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Drive, P.O. Box 704-1941, Owings Mills, MD 21117. The poem should be no more than 20 lines, and the poet's name and address should appear on the top of the page. Entries must be postmarked by June 30. A new contest opens July 1.

The National Library of Poetry, founded in 1982, is the largest poetry organization in the world.

(Editor's Note: Presidian Sharon E. Everett-Roles received the "Editor's Choice"

award in last year's competition for her poem "Lancelot's Lament.")

DRMO Sale

The Alameda DRMO will conduct a retail cash-and-carry sale on the Presidio, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday at Building 1063. Cash is the only tender accepted during this sale.

Items purchased during this sale must be removed from Building 1063 before 1 p.m. Monday. The customer is required to load items purchased. Items will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be no preview before the sale.

Following are the types of items available for purchase: desks, chairs, computer workstations, computer equipment, filing cabinets, four-drawer safe, couches, metal book cases, and other items too numerous to mention. The general public is invited to attend the sale.

For information, call (415) 561-2417/2401.

Letterman update

Active duty soldiers living or working in the San Francisco area after Aug. 1 must be enrolled by Letterman Clinic to access medical care at the VA hospital. Please call (415) 561-3130/3148/3166 or DSN 586-3130/3148/3166 for information.

Dance lectures

Join the performers and directors of the 1995 San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival for free pre-performance talks tomorrow, June 10 and June 17 at the Exploratorium's McBean Theater at 6:30 p.m. Come meet the artists and learn more about the international cultures you will see on stage at the Festival's 17th annual season at the Palace of Fine Arts. For information, call the Festival offices at (415) 474-3914.

Star Presidian

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Public Affairs Officer.....James L. Hudgins
Chief, Command Information.....Sharon E. Everett-Roles

Presidians again active in Bay to Breakers event

Several Presidians finished the 1995 Bay to Breakers event in the top 10,000 (more than 80,000 runners participated). Their finishing times and placement are:

Cpl. Scott Miller (476) -- 51:10
Sergeant 1st Class Daniel Kendall, Sr. (851) -- 54:27
Sergeant 1st Class Ian Mann (1,177) -- 56:41
Maj. James Alello (1,919) -- 1:06:22
Capt. Tracy Sharpe (4,160) -- 1:06:53
Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Wyatt (4,191) -- 1:06:57
Sergeant 1st Class Frederic Jones (4,445) -- 1:07:37
Sgt. Stephen Heinrich (6,125) -- 1:11:41

If you finished the Bay to Breakers in the top 10,000 and your name, placement and finishing time are not shown here, please call the *Star Presidian* at (415) 561-2192 by close of business June 9 and your information will appear in the June 16 issue.



DoD safety record set in fiscal 1994

In fiscal 1994 accidents claimed fewer military lives than nonaccidental causes for the first time.

Deputy Secretary of Defense John Deutch said the accomplishment was particularly noteworthy considering the department's many humanitarian missions, worldwide deployments and restructuring.

Accidental military deaths dropped from 666 to 526, an all-time low, said officials. DoD aircraft accident rates dropped from 1.94 to 1.63 accidents per 100,000 flying hours. The dollar cost of major aircraft accidents dropped from \$1.6 billion to \$1.2 billion. Aviation fatalities dropped from 119 to 68. The number of destroyed aircraft reached an all-time low of 84, down from 110.

As recently as 1980, accidents claimed twice as many lives as did all other causes, including deaths from hostile forces, according to DoD safety and occupational health officials. Nonaccidental deaths include deaths from natural causes, homicides, diseases and suicides, and they have held steady at about .4 fatalities per thousand active duty members. There were .36 accidental deaths per thousand service members in fiscal 1994.

Two years ago then-Secretary of Defense Les Aspin challenged all commanders and managers to become personally involved in making their occupational illness and accident prevention programs more effective, Deutch said. He said all people in the department should be proud of the dramatic reduction in losses and encouraged DoD personnel to work toward an even safer 1995.

(American Forces Information Service)

Exploratorium dog days coming

Dog is man's (and woman's) best friend. Yet we are oddly unclear about the history of our close companions. **Dog Diversity Day** at the Exploratorium, a day not to be missed by dog lovers of any breed, takes place from 2 to 5 p.m., June 25. In the words of *Discover Magazine*, "nowonder domestic dogs act so geeky — whining, chasing sticks, ripping slippers to shreds. In some ways, they're no more than adolescent wolves." Find out how these adolescent wolves developed into dog breeds that look so different as adults yet appear much the same as new born puppies. Herein lies part of the mystery of doggy diversity.

Find out how *Canis lupus*, the wolf, became *Canis lupus familiaris*, the domesticated dog. How did Dachshunds and Lhasa apsos, Jack Daniel terriers, springer spaniels and poodles come to be? **Dog Diversity Day** brings together the two great ideas in biology — those of Darwin and those of Mendel — to show that dog diversity is a laboratory of evolution that has been directed by man. Some of the other breeds on display include: Fox Terrier, Whippet, Russian Wolfhound, Greyhound, Basenji, Golden Retriever, Keeshound, Boxer, Komondor, Shih Tzu, miniature Dachshund, Corgi, Pug, Siberian Husky, Cocker Span-

iel.

Everyone from farmers to the Royal Kennel Club has been breeding dogs over the centuries. Now it is the subject of research laboratories, too. **Dog Diversity Day** includes a rare public lecture by Dr. Jasper Rine, Director of the Dog Genome Project at UC Berkeley. What happens when you cross breed a water-loving Newfoundland with a born-to-herd Border collie? Meet Pepper the mom and Gregor the dad and observe their in-breed proclivities. Then meet their children and grandchildren and learn the ways that characteristics emerge and mix from generation to generation. This dog family is the basis of a major study by Rine, although all the dogs live with families around the country and have been raised as family pets. Rine will present his dogs and discuss his work comparing two very different types of dogs to help understand appearance and behavior differences. Rine will also discuss doggy genetics in general, including the traits that link dogs to their wild forebear, the wolf.

The lecture/demonstration takes place at the Exploratorium's McBean Theater. **Dog Diversity Day** is free with admission to the Exploratorium.

(Exploratorium press release)

The back page

TRICARE News

TRICARE program options explained

TRICARE is on the move.

Over the next several years, the Defense Department's new regional managed health care program for service families will be in operation throughout the U.S., with a uniform benefit and cost structure. Persons who are eligible for CHAMPUS/TRICARE benefits will find three options from which to choose: TRICARE Prime, TRICARE Extra and TRICARE Standard (the same as standard CHAMPUS). Here's a brief description of each:

TRICARE Prime: This is a voluntary "HMO-type" option. If you decide to get your health care through TRICARE Prime, you'll enroll for a year at a time, and will normally receive your care from within the Prime network of civilian and military providers.

Covered services will be like those of standard CHAMPUS, plus additional preventive and primary care services. For ex-

ample, periodic physical exams are covered at no charge under TRICARE Prime, but are not covered under TRICARE Extra or TRICARE Standard (CHAMPUS). Prime also covers certain immunizations that aren't a benefit under Extra or Standard.

You'll have the option of choosing or being assigned a "primary care manager," who will furnish most of your care and will manage all aspects of your case, including referrals to specialists.

Active-duty families won't have to pay an annual enrollment fee. Others will, but there'll be no annual deductibles, and copayments for services under Prime will be considerably reduced. Also, you won't have to file any claim forms when using network providers.

TRICARE Extra: In this option, you don't have to enroll or pay an annual fee. On a visit-by-visit basis, you can seek care from a provider who's part of the TRICARE

Extra network, and get a discount on services, and reduced cost-shares. Also, you won't have to file any claim forms when using network providers. You can get a list of the TRICARE Extra providers by contacting the "health care finders" located in the various TRICARE service centers in your region, or by calling the toll-free number established by the TRICARE contractor.

TRICARE Standard: This option is the same as the regular CHAMPUS program. It pays a share of the cost of covered health care services that you obtain from a non-network civilian health care provider. There's no enrollment in TRICARE Standard. You'll pay the normal CHAMPUS deductibles for outpatient care, and your cost-sharing percentages will be the same as for regular CHAMPUS. You'll have to file claims if your provider declines to do so.

(Office of Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniformed Services)

New "Troops to Cops" program begins

By Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Barrett
American Forces Information Service

DoD is providing law enforcement agencies \$15 million to turn recent veterans and departing service members into police officers. Defense and Justice department officials announced the Troops to Cops program in early May.

Eligible service members have until Aug. 15 to apply. Troops to Cops is another in a series of DoD transition assistance programs and also part of President Bill Clinton's efforts to place 100,000 new cops in America's cities.

Troops to Cops addresses two important problems, said Delaware Sen. Joseph R. Biden. It provides opportunity for service members displaced by base closures and downsizing to continue serving their country through community policing.

"Second, and most importantly, this program will have a direct impact on crime in America," Biden added. He said placing the new officers in neighborhoods and commu-

nities across the nation is the best opportunity to stop crime.

The Justice Department's Community-Oriented Policing Services program manages this new incentive. Working with DoD transition assistance offices, this program maintains a list of enrolled eligible veterans. From this list, more than 7,700 law enforcement agencies can get to COPS files and recruit police candidates.

COPS then provides law enforcement agencies up to \$5,000 for each veteran hired. Those funds pay for academy, supplemental or in-service training costs for veterans hired after Jan. 1, 1995. Payment occurs once the veteran meets hiring standards and completes community police training. Agencies cannot spend grants for equipment, uniforms or vehicles.

Fred Pang, assistant defense secretary for force management policy, said the program allows separating service members to continue serving their country. "They leave the military with the self-discipline, physical fitness and ability to think on their feet

necessary to be outstanding police officers," he said.

Interested veterans must contact their local transition assistance office to enroll. Transition centers then provide COPS with a list of candidates. These candidates must have active duty service on or after Oct. 1, 1993, and hold an honorable discharge.

Although Justice Department officials welcome all applicants, veterans with law enforcement experience receive preference. Retiring service members, Voluntary Separation Incentive or Special Separation Benefits recipients and involuntarily separated personnel will also receive program priority.

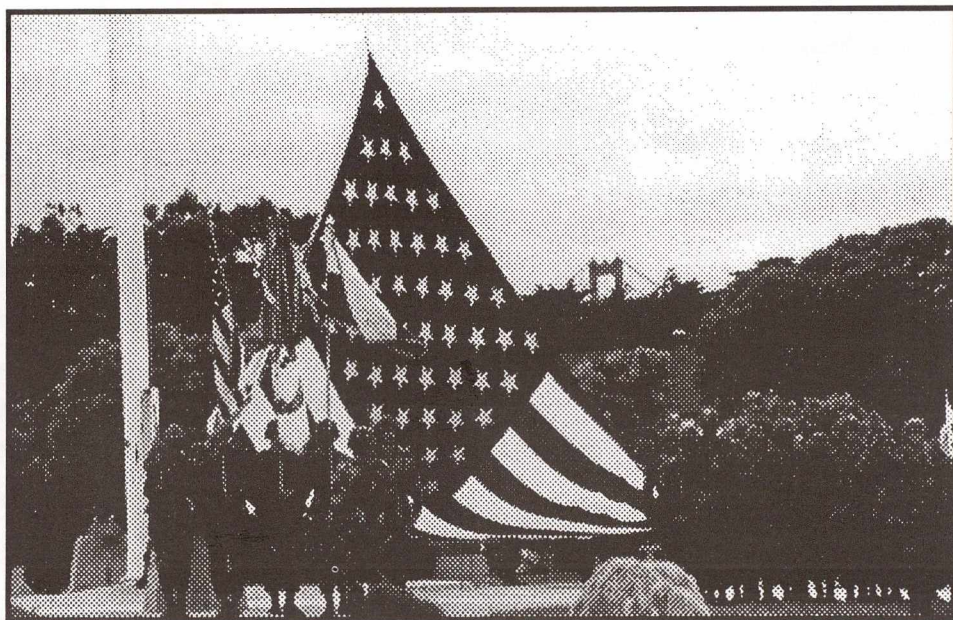
"Military veterans are valuable assets to any potential employer," said Carolyn Becraft, deputy assistant defense secretary for personnel support, families and education. "However, law enforcement is an extension of a lifestyle they know and understand. These young men and women leave the military with the confidence that they can get the job done, regardless of the challenges presented."

Star Presidian

Vol. 38, No. 13 Published for the Presidio of San Francisco military community June 30, 1995

Final issue!

All photo souvenir edition



Happy birthday!

Sixth U.S. Army soldiers, civilians and family members celebrated Flag Day and the Army Birthday June 14 with a retreat ceremony at Pershing Square. A reception followed at the Presidio Community Club. (Photoby Sharon E. Everett-Roles)



One more time . . .

Guests at the ceremony were entertained with patriotic music by the Sixth U.S. Army Band, under the direction of Chief Warrant Officer 4 Orville Gannon. Featured pieces included "You're A Grand Old Flag," "The Stars and Stripes Forever," and "The Army Song." (Photoby Sharon E. Everett-Roles)



Sixth Army out on the town



Jim Hudgins



Clint A. Tauscher

Lt. Col. Ray King (right), Sixth U.S. Army assistant chief of staff, presented Oakland A's manager Tony LaRussa with a plaque citing the team as an official World War II commemorative community at a recent baseball game in Oakland. The San Francisco Giants were also designated as a World War II commemorative community this year.

Star Presidian editor Sharon Everett-Roles (right) is shown here with nine-time Tony Award winner Tommy Tune at the Black and White Ball. Tune, in town for a run of the new musical "Buskers," was a surprise performer at the symphony fund-raiser.

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City, Army join to honor "La Favorita"



Due to the Presidio U.S. Army Garrison closure and the inactivation of Sixth U.S. Army, this is the last year for Army involvement in the annual San Francisco Birthday celebration. Left to right, above: Jill Werner, Lt. Col. Richard Werner (Presidio of San Francisco sub-installation commander), Mara Rieden ("La Favorita"), and Capt. Tony Pogozelski (Readiness Group, Presidio of San Francisco), gathered for the pre-celebration tea at the home of Dr. Charles A. Shumate.

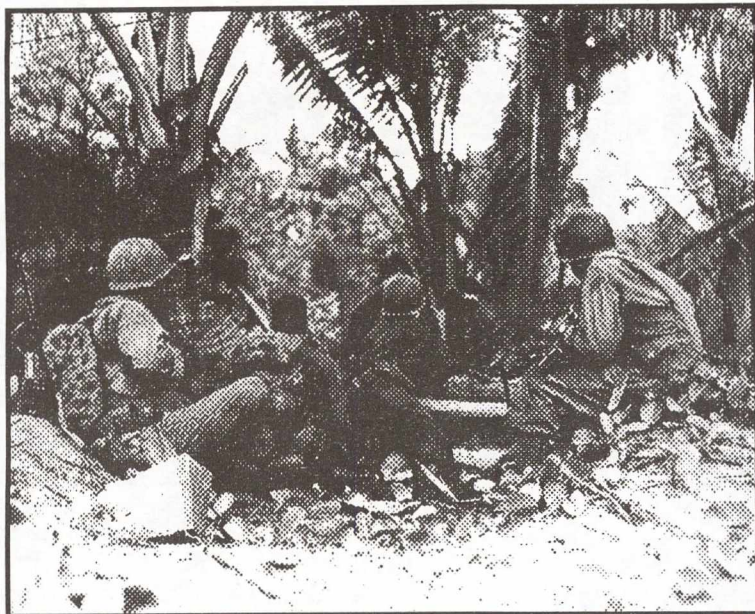
Capt. Tony Pogozelski (left), Readiness Group Presidio of San Francisco, is the last Presidio soldier to escort "La Favorita" in the traditional San Francisco birthday celebration. This year's "La Favorita" is Mara Rieden. "La Favorita" is selected by the San Francisco Birthday Committee from teenage girls descended from the Anza party, the first Spanish settlers in the San Francisco Bay area.



Members of the Presidio of San Francisco sub-installation escort party chat with "La Favorita" Mara Rieden and Dr. Charles A. Shumate, chairman emeritus of the San Francisco Birthday Committee and owner of the historical home in which the pre-birthday celebration tea was held. A mass and wreath laying at Mission Dolores completed the birthday events June 29.

Photos by Sharon E. Everett-Roles

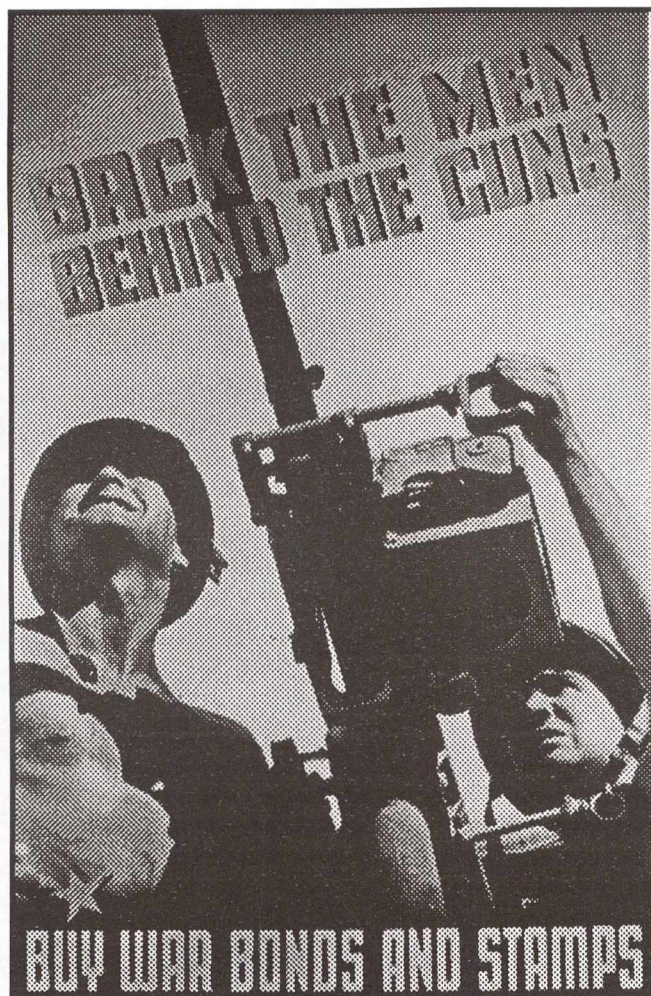
Born of War . . .



A heavy machine gun crew sets up quickly on the beach near Aitape, New Guinea. Personnel are from Headquarters Company, 124th Infantry Regiment, 31st Division. Left to right: Sgt. Clarence H. Moore, Pfc. Doyal Brumley, Pfc. Talmed McAully, Pfc. Henry C. Layfield. (Signal Corps photo taken Aug. 1, 1944)

All photos from Sixth U.S. Army historical archives.

Members of the 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment jump to a field on Corregidor Island, Philippines. (Signal Corps photo taken Feb. 16, 1945)

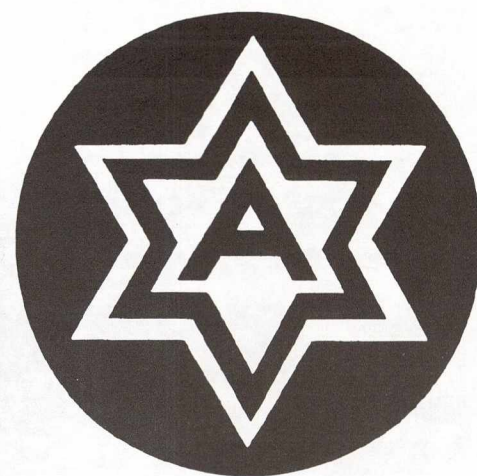


Above and above right: Sixth U.S. Army had its beginnings in the Pacific Theater during World War II.



Outlined below reflects the major activities on the Presidio and their status in terms of closure or continuation. POC for this information is the Subinstallation Command Group at 561-3623.

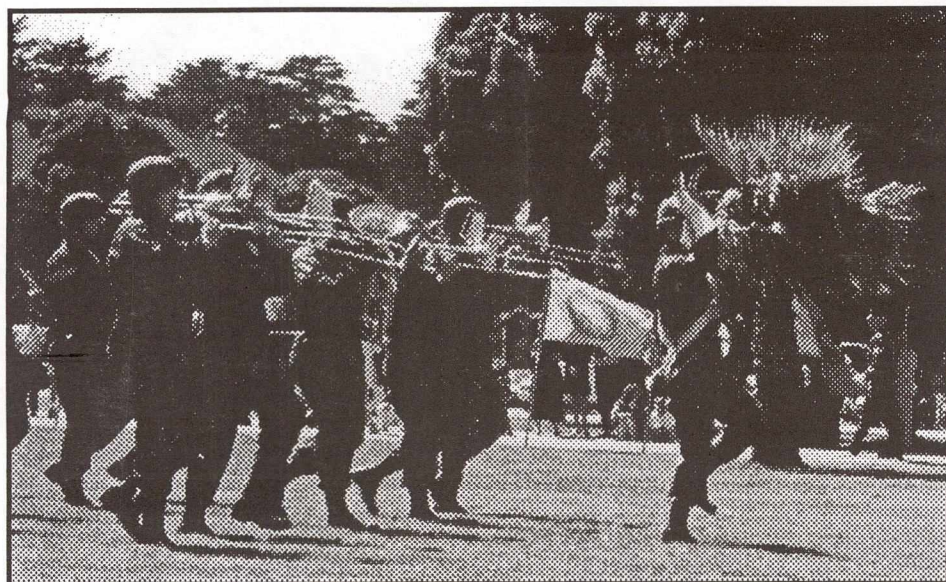
Activity	Status/Date	Remarks
Chapel - 561-2132		
Daily Catholic Mass	Ceases 30 June 95	
Flags removed	17 July 95	Moved to Ft. Irwin
Catholic Mass	Reduced to two 1 Aug 95	1 Protestant Service remains
Catholic Mass	Reduced to one 1 Sep 95	1 Protestant Service remains
Last Chapel Svce	Closes 24 Sep 95	All denominations cease
Dental Clinic-561-3177	Closes 30 June 95	Use OAB Clinic DSN 859-2918
DOIM - 561-3246		
Teleconf (TCC)	Closed 23 June 95	
Mail/Distribution	Reduced Svces 3 July 95	Closes 15 Sep 95
DPCA Activities - 561-3612/29		
AER	Cease Ops 28 Apr 95	Call OAB DSN 859-2508
Youth Services	Closes 23 June 95	
Education Services	Closes 28 June 95	Limited Counseling after 28 June
Community Club	Closes 30 June 95	
Town Hall Meeting	Next meeting 18 July 95 1800 hrs, Bldg. 682	
Gym/Pool	Closes 31 Aug 95	
Yacht Club	Transfer Ops 31 Aug 95	Travis AFB MWR
PX (AAFES)	Remaining Indef.	
Commissary	Remaining Indef.	
Housing/Billeting - 561-3630/31		
Self Help	Closes 15 Aug 95	
Funston Hse/Pershing	Closes 21 Aug 95	
Housing Ofc (Army)	Closes 29 Sep 95	
Legal Assistance - 561-2160, 2170		
Legal Assistance	Closes 21 July 95	
Medical/Health Clinic - 561-3130		
Health Clinic	Reduced Ops 30 June 95	Aid Station only.
Aid Station	Closes 1 Aug 95	Use Oaknoll or VA Hospital
Military Police - 561-3991/92/93		
MP Patrols	Ceases 1 Sep 95	USPP assume mission
Misc		
Pentagon Credit Union	Closes 30 June 95	
Video-Tele Conf (VTC)	Closes 30 June 95	
Casualty Assist Ofc	Moves 30 June 95	OAB Bldg 90. 561-3688
Carlson Travel	Cease Ops 30 June 95	Use downtown Ofc
Transport/Pers. Prop	Cease Ops 30 June 95	Call 1(800)752-2265
Retirement Svce Ofc	Moves 26 June 95	OAB Bldg. 90 561-3600
Vet Clinic-707-424-2608	Cease PSF Ops 20 Sep 95	Use Travis AFB/Alameda NAS



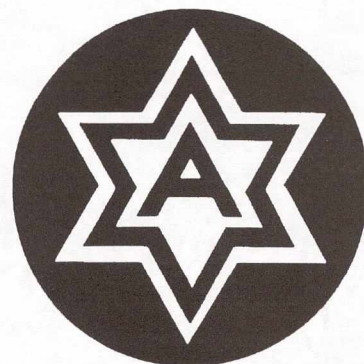
Memorial services for former Sixth U.S. Army commander Gen. Douglas MacArthur were held April 6, 1964, at the Presidio of San Francisco. (Signal Corps photo taken April 6, 1964)

. . . Dedicated to peace

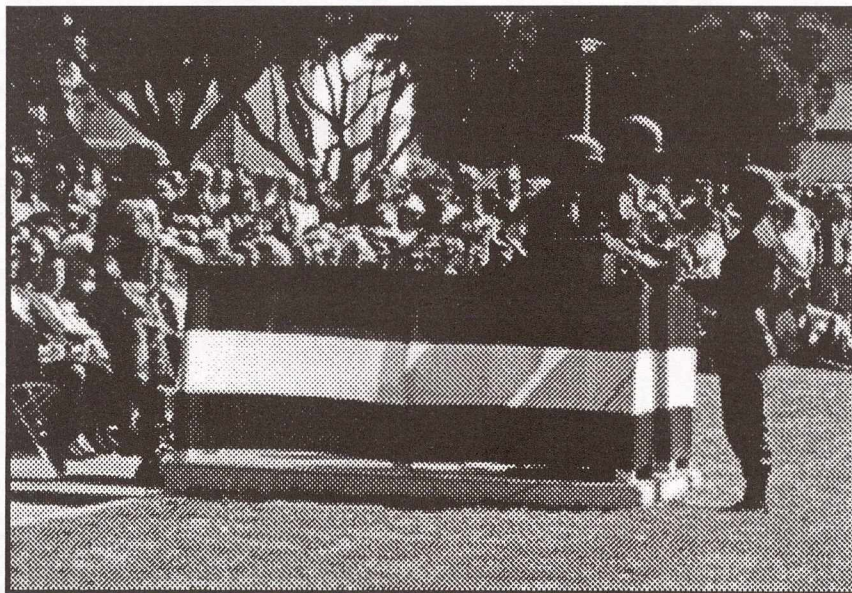
Sixth U.S. Army Inactivation



The Sixth U.S. Army Band marched across the parade ground during the ceremony, prior to being inactivated itself. The first Sixth U.S. Army bandmaster led the group when they played "Retreat."



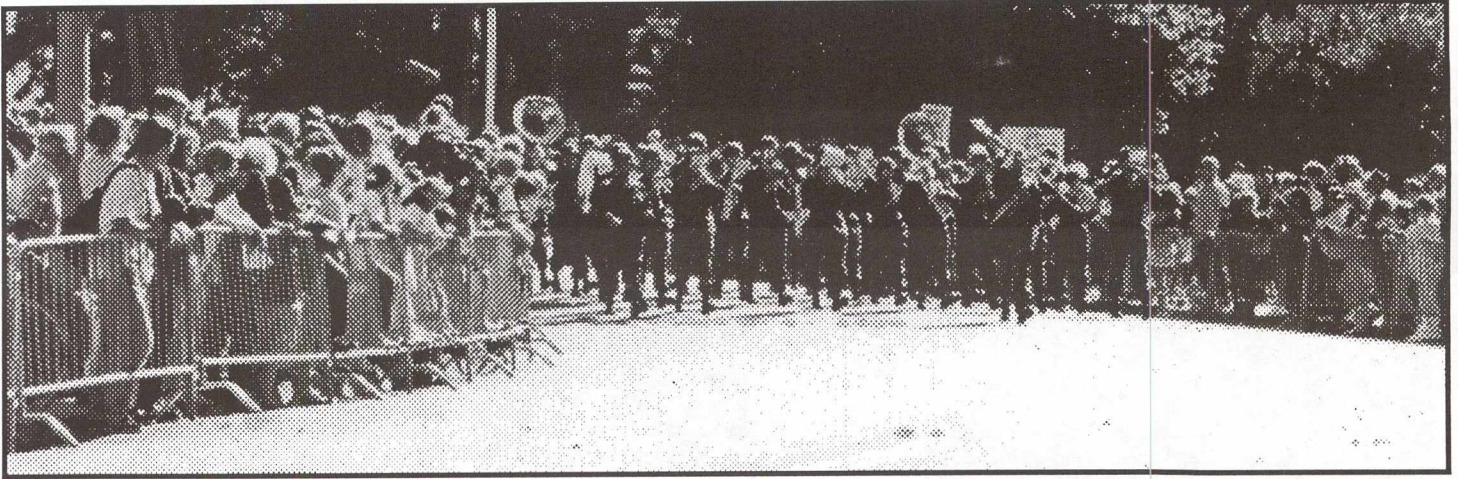
Below: The Ceremonial Platoon Salute Battery fired a 19-gun salute in honor of Gen. Dennis Reimer, newly-appointed Army Chief of Staff. Right: Sergeant 1st Class Ian Mann presents Reimer with the first round fired during the final salute of the ceremony.



Sixth U.S. Army was awarded the Outstanding Unit Citation immediately prior to its inactivation. The Sixth U.S. Army colors were cased for the final time at the June 23 ceremony.

All inactivation ceremony photos by Sharon E. Everett-Roles





Above and right: The Sixth U.S. Army Band led a procession from the Parade Ground out the Lombard Gate to Lyon Street. Sixth U.S. Army staff members marched behind the band in a symbolic departure from the Presidio.

Below: Flanked by former Sixth U.S. Army commanders, Lt. Gen. Glynn C. Mallory, Jr., the last commander of Sixth U.S. Army, is presented with the flag flown over the Presidio of San Francisco the day of the Inactivation ceremony.

SEE PAGE 8 FOR MORE INACTIVATION CEREMONY PHOTOS.

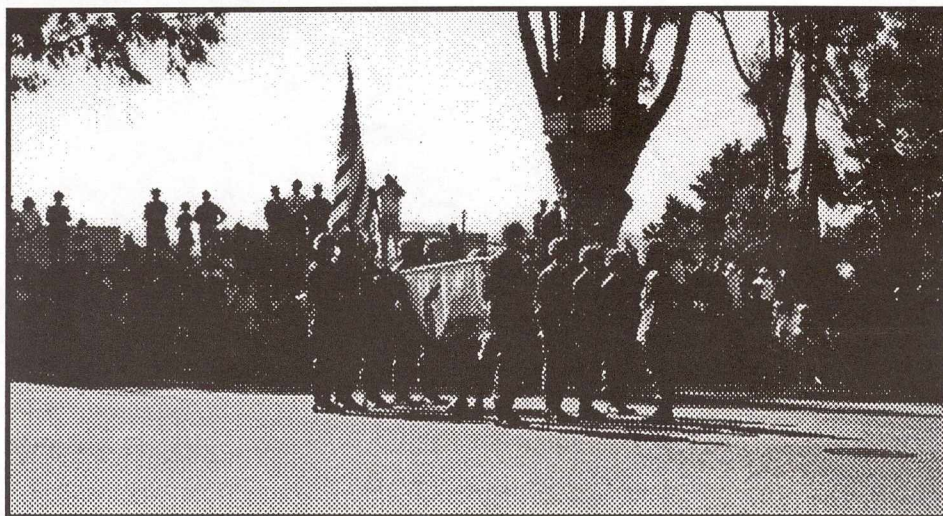


"Should auld acquaintance be forgot . . ."



Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi (center) was among the honored guests at the ceremony that sunny day. Also present were Mayor Frank Jordan and numerous former commanders of Sixth U.S. Army.

Sixth U.S. Army's Command Sgt. Maj. Otto Copeland cased the American and Department of the Army flags in a short ceremony held at the Lombard Gate.



As the band played "Auld Lang Syne," the soldiers of Sixth U.S. Army headquarters marched down Lyon Street and into the annals of history.

